

CONSULTANT IN ACUTE MEDICINE AMU (ACUTE MEDICAL UNIT)

Title:	Consultant in Acute Medicine
Location:	West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.
Accountable to:	Chief Executive – Dr Ewen Cameron
Professionally Accountable to:	Executive Medical Director – Dr Paul Molyneux
Responsible to:	Clinical Director – Dr William Petchey
Responsible officer:	Executive Medical Director – Dr Paul Molyneux

Thank you for considering a role at the [West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust](#)

First for our patients, staff, and the future

Our **patients** are at the centre of everything we do. The quality of care that we provide is our driving force. We strive to deliver the best patient outcomes and experience in the most appropriate setting available. We are committed to joining up services locally, collaborating with our partners and supporting our staff to make continuous improvements – no matter how big or small – that challenge us all to raise our standards.



We believe our **staff** must take good care of each other, so together we can take good care of our patients. We aim to build a fair, open, and learning culture that is inclusive and supports all staff to develop their careers. We want to be recognised as a great place to work.

Advancing our digital and technological capabilities to better support the health and wellbeing of our communities is vital. We want to be at the forefront of these changes and have an opportunity to progress this through the planning of a new healthcare facility. Together with patients, public and staff, we will shape health and care services that are fit for current and **future** needs, helping people to stay well and get well.

Our values

We believe that how we do things is just as important as what we do.

Our Trust values of fairness, inclusivity, respect, safety, and teamwork (FIRST) are the guiding principles and behaviours expected of our staff and which run through our organisation.

We use them to improve the services we provide to our community and the way that we work as a team and with our partners. As a member of our team, you will need to live these values, placing them at the heart of everything you do.



[You can find out more about our vision and values by reading our five-year strategy **First for patients, staff, and the future** here.](#)

Job summary:

Applications are invited for a Consultant in Acute Medicine at West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust based within the Acute Medical Unit (AMU). This is a permanent contract.

The AMU is a busy, varied and fast paced and friendly environment. The consultants are supported by a wider multidisciplinary team including specialist registrars, advanced clinical practitioners, physician associates and nursing staff. As a consultant within the AMU, you will be expected to provide comprehensive and timely assessment of patients presenting to the AMU, including to the acute assessment unit, short stay ward and Same Day Emergency Care.

The successful candidate will join the existing team of AMU consultants, and there is the opportunity to have allocated sessions for other specialist interests.

Key Tasks:

- To join the existing Acute Medical Consultants in providing a comprehensive and timely assessment of patients presenting to the Acute Medical Unit (AMU).
- To participate in teaching and training of junior staff, medical students, and Advanced Nurse / Clinical Practitioners based on the AMU.
- To participate actively in both Departmental and Trust Clinical Governance and Audit.
- To fulfil obligations relating to continuing medical education and professional development, appraisal and revalidation

DUTIES OF THE POST

Consultants in Acute Medicine

Applications are invited for the new post of Consultant in Acute Medicine in the Acute Medical Unit on either a full-time or part-time basis at the West Suffolk Hospital.

Duties & responsibilities of the post

This is a new 10 PA Consultant post, maintaining the complement of 5 WTE Consultants within the AMU.

Responsibilities include ward rounds on the short stay ward, and review of patients within the Acute Assessment Unit, Ambulatory Emergency Care (SDEC) and DVT services.

The shift patterns include 09:00hrs until 17.00hrs and an evening shift 1: 7.5 from 13:00 until 21:00. There are protected shifts for administration and SPA time (1.5PAs).

At weekends, the morning Post Take Ward Round will be covered by two of the Adult Medicine/Care of the Elderly Consultants from 8.30 AM. AMU Consultants start at 1PM till 9 PM and will be responsible for all the new admissions on that day. This is provided as part of a 1:7.5 Rota. There will also be a requirement to work 17.00 - 21.00 hrs as part of the job plan reviewing patients on the Take.

Successful candidates with a specialist interest may be able to provide such activity as agreed with the Clinical Director, and up to a maximum of 3 allocated sessions a week.

The AMU has a team of junior doctors including a Specialist Registrar, Clinical Fellow, one FY1 a CMT/FY2 trainee and 3 Advanced Clinical Practitioners and 2 Physician Associates. The AMU Consultants will be responsible for the supervision, training and assessment of assigned AMU junior medical staff, and for ensuring that patients move through the unit effectively.

The Trust delivers services to patients seven days a week and aims to provide equality of treatment and outcome regardless of the day of the week. To meet these aims and changing service requirements, the Trust may need you either to work temporarily outside of your core hours or to permanently change your core working days and hours. The Trust will give you reasonable notice, where possible, of temporary changes to your days or hours of work and will consult with you and/or your staff representatives about substantial permanent changes, but ultimately, these are changes which may be required of you.

Timetable

A job plan will be agreed with the Clinical Director in the first instance and approved by the Executive Medical Director/General Manager on behalf of the Chief Executive. The Consultants are appointed on 10 PA's and this is reviewed after 3 months in post. Applicants wishing to work less than full time will have an individualised timetable agreed with the Clinical Director.

Within the rota there are 1.5 SPAs timetabled for each consultant, but additional SPAs may be available for those candidates wishing to take on extra responsibilities such as educational supervisor or clinical governance lead. The extra SPAs may range from 0.1 to 0.5 SPAs.

PROPOSED SAMPLE TIMETABLE – assuming the candidate has a speciality.

Week 1

MONDAY a.m.	TUESDAY a.m.	WEDNESDAY a.m.	THURSDAY a.m.	FRIDAY a.m.
Admin	WR-F7	AMBULATORY/ONCALL		
JOURNAL CLUB/CLINICAL GOVERNANCE			AMU OPERATIONAL MEETING ONCE MONTHLY	
MONDAY p.m.	TUESDAY p.m.	WEDNESDAY p.m.	THURSDAY p.m.	FRIDAY p.m.
SPA/(OFF ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS)	SPA/Board Round	AMBULATORY/ONCALL	SPECIALITY	SPA
			5-9pm Take	

PROPOSED INITIAL TIMETABLE

Week 2

P.A.

MONDAY a.m.	TUESDAY a.m.	WEDNESDAY a.m.	THURSDAY a.m.	FRIDAY a.m.
ADMIN	ADMIN	WR/F7	SPECIALITY	On call
JOURNAL CLUB/CLINICAL GOVERNANCE			OPERATIONAL GROUP MEETING ONCE MONTHLY	
MONDAY p.m.	TUESDAY p.m.	WEDNESDAY p.m.	THURSDAY p.m.	FRIDAY p.m.
SPA	SPA	ADMIN/BR	SPECIALITY	On call

WEEKEND (SATURDAY & SUNDAY) ROLLING ROTA (1:7.5) (1pm – 9pm)

WEEKEND 1	CONSULTANT A
WEEKEND 2	CONSULTANT B
WEEKEND 3	CONSULTANT C
WEEKEND 4	CONSULTANT D
WEEKEND 5	CONSULTANT E
WEEKEND 6	CONSULTANT F
WEEKEND 7	CONSULTANT G
WEEKEND 8	CONSULTANT A/B

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Mentoring

The new appointee will be supported and mentored for the first six months of the post – it will be provided by one of the consultants in the department, depending on the appointee's choice.

The Department of Medicine at West Suffolk Hospital

Introduction

The West Suffolk Hospital is a District General Hospital built in 1974. It serves a population of around 280,000 in the western part of Suffolk and Southern part of West Norfolk.

Staffing

The Hospital has a 24 hour Emergency Department and a full range of Medical, Surgical and other specialties, with a total of around 450 beds. In addition there is a Day Surgery Unit and a Hospice with a 10-bedded unit. Consultants who visit from Cambridge provide specialty services such as Plastic Surgery. There is a wide range of radiological diagnostic facilities provided by 12 Consultant Radiologists including CT scanning (spiral), ultrasound, isotope imaging and MRI. Acute medicine is centred on the AMU, a six bedded Coronary Care Unit and nine bedded Critical Care Unit, well supported by Radiological, Path Laboratory and Surgical Services.

AMU

The AMU assesses around approximately 1,000 medical patients per month. There is provision for single-sex accommodation. The AMU comprises of AAU and a Short Stay Ward. AAU includes a dedicated assessment area and Ambulatory Emergency Care. Within the AAU there is 5 monitored trolleys where we provide level 2 care. Recently, we have established a Cardiology Clinic within our Ambulatory Care where the Cardiologist provides a review clinic for AMU patients. Short stay ward is currently located in F7 which admits patients whose length of stay is less than 72 hours. There is a regular monthly AMU operational meeting, attended by all members of the multidisciplinary team. The operational policy has been agreed by the Trust.

The AMU is working with other members of the trust to increase the number of ambulatory care pathways. This will be supported by the assimilation of community services under the umbrella of the acute trust. The unit works closely with the existing community services, including the Early Intervention Team, rapid response team and Suffolk COPD services to avoid unnecessary admissions wherever possible. The team have also worked with the local practice-based commissioning group to redesign the pathway for patients with suspected DVT, which was launched in early July 2010. The new pathway means that the GP performs the initial clinical assessment and gives the first dose of anticoagulation, so that the patient has to attend DVT clinic the following day for a booked assessment and ultrasound scan. This is currently under review with an intention to run the service with a specialist nurse.

The AMU team are currently developing care plans to reduce the number of attendances of some patients who are admitted too frequently. They are also looking at developing the range and quality of patient information to reduce the number of subsequent readmissions.

In August 2007 the Medical Directorate implemented ward-based teams to improve MDT working and to fit with the Hospital at Night model.

Since 2010, the medical directorate has been working towards providing daily consultant ward rounds or board rounds on every ward, and have successfully reduced average LOS by over 5 days since 2008.

Teaching, audit and Post-Graduate Medical Education

There is a well-equipped and active Post-Graduate Medical Centre which provides a varied programme of lectures and regular weekly meetings organised in a wide variety of specialities. There is an excellent multi-disciplinary library which is well-stocked with textbooks, standard journals, CD ROM journals, and

there is a computer room with access to Medline, the Internet and e-mail. There are two lecture theatres, skills and training rooms, and up to ten seminar rooms.

The appointee will be expected to take part in teaching the doctors in training in the Department of Medicine as well as medical students. The medical directorate operates a system of ward-based audits including three-monthly audits of DVT prophylaxis, fluid balance and note-keeping. The new appointees will be expected to support the junior medical staff in ensuring these audits are completed on AMU. Regular clinical governance meetings are held, and all consultants are expected to attend. The hospital is a popular training placement for medical students and doctors in training.

Undergraduate Medical Education

The West Suffolk Hospital was successful in a joint bid with the University Of Cambridge Clinical School to develop the Cambridge Graduate Medical Course, which provides a fast track four-year course for 20 students a year who would hold an existing degree. The first intake of students was in 2001. This development has led to further investment in education on the site and the Education Centre has been built in the hospital grounds to provide improved educational facilities for the hospital and attached community services and general practices. The development includes the provision of library and lecture theatre facilities, the Postgraduate Medical Centre, and clinical skills rooms.

The West Suffolk Hospital will continue to receive both first and final year clinical students from the current standard University of Cambridge course.

Study and Training

The applicant is expected to participate in professional continuing medical education. Thirty study leave days over a three year cycle are available, attending approved courses agreed with the clinical director.

Continuing Professional Development

There is a strong support for CPD within the Trust, under the direction of the Medical Director, Clinical Tutor and Specialty Tutors. All consultants are encouraged to undertake CPD in accordance with the Royal College guidelines.

The post-holder will be expected to participate in the annual appraisal system, be cognisant of the General Medical Council's "Good Medical Practice" and be responsible for his/her own revalidation with the General Medical Council.

Clinical Quality

There is a wide-ranging Clinical Governance programme across the Trust, supported by specialist staff. Clinical involvement in Clinical Audit and collaborative care planning is of paramount importance. Clinicians are generally expected to use proven and agreed clinical guidelines, especially those published by NICE.

Accommodation

Office space and secretarial support will be provided. IT support in the office will allow access to the hospital's intranet (providing laboratory results, radiology access etc.) and access to the internet.

Visiting

Applicants requiring further information about the post are invited to contact Dr Haris Marath at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, who would be pleased to meet prospective candidates. Appointments may be arranged via the Department Secretaries on 01284 713785.

Interview related expenses would be reimbursed to a maximum of two visits for short-listed candidates from point of entry to the UK only.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application

Applications are welcomed from those wishing for personal reasons to work part-time or those wishing to job share. If such persons are appointed, modification of the job content will be discussed on a personal basis in consultation with consultant colleagues.

Applications to be submitted in the form of:

- i. **A completed application form on TRAC** quoting reference number, giving names of three referees that can provide references that cover your last 3 years of employment and confirmation that you are on the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council and hold a Licence to Practise, or state the date at which you were awarded, or expected to be awarded, your CCT (Completion of Specialist Training, or equivalent).
- ii. **Closing date for applications:** Wednesday 5th June 2024
- iii. **Interview date:** Friday the 12th July 2024

CONSULTANT MAIN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

1. The appointment will be subject to the Terms and Conditions – Consultants (England) 2003 as approved by the Trust Board and as amended by the Board from time to time.
2. The appointment is on a whole-time basis. A candidate who is unable for personal reasons to work full-time will be eligible to be considered for this post. The ability to work part-time only should be indicated when applying and, if such a person is appointed, modification of the job plan will be discussed and agreed between yourself and the clinical director/general manager.
3. If the Consultant appointed chooses to contract on a whole-time basis and wishes to undertake private practice, this private work must be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Private Practice.
4. Consultants are expected to provide cover for colleagues for leave and other authorised absences from duty upon a mutually agreed basis.
5. Arrangements for annual leave: This is arranged by mutual agreement of consultant colleagues and approval of the Clinical Director and General Manager, in accordance with standard Trust/NHS regulations. It is essential that six weeks' notice is given to allow for proper planning and prevent cancellations of patients' appointments/surgery.
6. All Consultants have a continuing responsibility for the care of patients in their charge and for the proper functioning of their department and are required to undertake the administrative duties associated with that responsibility.
7. The successful candidate will be required to reside within ten miles or 30 minutes travelling time of Bury St Edmunds.
8. The Trust requires the appointee to have and maintain full registration with the General Medical Council and hold a Licence to Practise. Medical and Dental Staff are advised to continue to be members of one of the medical defence organisations.
9. The present salary scale is £93,666 to £126,281 per annum, plus an on-call availability supplement if appropriate. The successful candidate will commence on the minimum of the scale unless advised differently during the appointment process.
10. This post is exempt from the provisions of Section 4 (2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exemptions) Order 1975. Applications are, therefore, not entitled to withhold information about convictions which, for other purposes, are "spent" under the provisions of the Act and, in the event of employment, any failure to disclose such convictions could result in dismissal or disciplinary action by the West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Any information given will be completely confidential and will be considered only in relation to an application for positions to which the Order applies.

11. Health Questionnaire – Prior to taking up appointment, the successful candidate will be required to pass a Health Assessment from the Occupational Health Department and provide evidence of Hepatitis B status from a United Kingdom Trust or Public Health Service Laboratory.
12. The Trust is committed to carefully screen all applicants who will work with children and vulnerable people and the successful applicant will therefore be required to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure Check (Police Check). Further information can be obtained from the Human Resources Department.
13. On appointment, removal expenses may apply to this appointment. For further information, please contact Medical Staffing, on 0128) 712 744.