



# Anaesthesia Cultures

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*13th September 2022*

# the Netherlands

- 1989 theatres/Anaesthetic Assistant 3,5 year training
- Every Theatre has an Anaesthetic Medewerker(Nurse/Assistant)
- Lowest rate of Anaesthesiologist per 100.000 (2014)but high quality care
- 1:2 is more or less the norm.
- Corridor Teams often 1-2 AA's

# Switzerland

- 1994
- 1:2 and 1:1
- Resus and Ambulance
- Consultant on call from home in smaller hospitals
- Line service- PICC for hips and Knee replacements
- Spinals depending on hospital
- Freelancing in other hospitals





# 2004 recruited by Gateshead QE hospital



**EXTRA HANDS:** Wouter de Kroon and Lisa Churchill.

## Planning ahead with recruits from Europe

A NORTH-EAST hospital has turned to Europe to overcome a nationwide shortage of anaesthetists.

Gateshead's Queen Elizabeth Hospital has recruited Lisa Churchill and Wouter de Kroon from Lugano Hospital, Switzerland, to work as anaesthesia practitioners.

They will provide support to consultants and other members of the anaesthetic team.

Project co-ordinator Margaret Scott said yesterday: "The Royal College of Anaesthetists has predicted we will need more support in anaesthetics by 2009 as the European Working Time Directive limits junior doctors' working hours.

"This is about planning ahead to make sure we have the skills we need to meet future demands.

"Over time, anaesthesia practitioners

will become an integral part of the team, freeing up the time of consultants to focus their expertise on the most complex cases."

Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Wansbeck Hospital in Ashington are among the first in the UK to recruit anaesthesia practitioners as part of a two-year NHS trial project.

Lisa is a qualified nurse who is originally from South-East England, but moved to Switzerland six years ago.

Wouter is Dutch, trained in the Netherlands 11 years ago and has since been working in Switzerland.

"We're an extra pair of professional hands," said Lisa yesterday.

"We will take time to explain our role to patients, working with them on a one-to-one basis. We can be with them from the moment they arrive to the moment they leave the operating theatre."

# Role finding

- New, so what to do?
- “This” is Never going to work
- New treatment centre – new structure
- Pre-assessment clinics; first mainly for your patients, later generic pre-assessment
- Your own list every week same surgeon

Training for PA(A) started September 2005

- CPEX
- DATIX investigators
- Physician Assistant became Lisa and Wouter







# Hywel Dda AA workforce

- AA's have been employed in the health board since 2008
- Numbers steadily increased over the years and expansion into other hospitals within the health board- total 8 in post
- Currently 7 AA's (Band 8a and 1 8b) working across 4 sites
- Lead AA (Band 8b) was on a sabbatical working as Anaesthetic Assistant in USA until 2020. One Seconded to Portsmouth.
- 5 AA's are from ODP background, 2 are Nurses and 1 trained in Netherlands – All have qualified in UK
- 2 Independent Prescribers (NMC)

# Examples of how we are utilised locally

- Theatre lists 2:1, 1:1 and floating
- Trauma/CEPOD
- Pre Assessment- High risk patients, note reviews
- Anaesthetic clerking
- Line Insertion- PICC service (chemo lists and on call)
- Local/National Audits- NELA, TARN, SNAP
- Remote anaesthetic support
- Resuscitation support
- General dept managerial duties- Anaesthetic Rota (CLW)/Chair meetings
- Clinical Governance Lead/WHAM
- Quality improvement work- ELC (laparotomy improvement )

# A culture of names

- Anaesthetic Assistant
- Anaesthetic Nurse
- Anaesthetic Practitioner
- Physician Assistant Anaesthesia
- Anaesthetic Associate

Anaesthesiologist-Anaesthesiologist-Nurse Anaesthesiologist

# What can Anaesthesia Associates do?



No one way is the right way to employ AA's



# Introducing the role- a few tips...

- **Do** identify a strong, informed AA Champion
- **Do** involve both clinical and managerial teams
- **Do** recognise and employ your key stakeholders
- **Do** set out clear governance from the outset
- **Do** review and update your governance
  
- **Don't** wait for 100% sign up

# Thank you- Any questions?

Further information

<https://www.anaesthesiaassociates.org/>

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