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Should diabetes specialist nurses be Advanced Clinical Practitioners?

Exploring advanced clinical practice, its similarities and differences with specialist practice, and how it relates to DSNs.

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Along with the change in positioning of medications and the call for their earlier use, it is refreshing to see equal weight given to lifestyle factors and to have a real guide to the discussions we should be having. The [ADA Standards of Care](#) for 2023 have just been released and they cement these recommendations.

The challenges facing nurses

So, for me, there have been many positives to celebrate in 2022, and many of these will continue to grow into next year, so good news indeed. To finish this editorial, though, I feel I must comment on the huge challenges we, as nurses, face. I have always steered very clear of political comment in my time as Editor-in-Chief; however, I feel it would be remiss not to acknowledge the enormous turmoil facing us all, with the recent and ongoing strike action among RCN members across the country.

The acknowledgement of the nursing shortages and their impact on patient care is what has led many colleagues to take this deeply traumatising and emotive step. I have seen the impact on all services, from secondary care through to intermediate/community services and primary care. The increasing workload, vacant positions and ageing workforce are at a level I have never witnessed in my 40 years of being an NHS employee. However, over that period, nursing has also advanced enormously as a profession, and it continues to do so at great pace. New roles

and qualifications are changing how we deliver high-quality care in the most effective way. The development of the ACP qualification is an example of this, and I recommend the article at the beginning of the year from Maureen Wallymahmed urging us to consider the benefits of this advancement ([Wallymahmed and Pearson, 2022](#)).

Early next year, in my first editorial of 2023, I will be reviewing the ADA standards of care, and we as an editorial team are looking to refresh the Journal with focused reviews of nursing roles for the future. We have seen a growing readership over the last 4 years, which is really rewarding for us here at the Journal since its move to an online format. To keep it growing, and to deliver more for our readers, I have a final request to any budding writers: [please do contact us](#) if you wish to share your work, thoughts or ideas. We provide extensive support to all healthcare professionals, even those with no experience of publishing, and would be very keen to help you get published and share good practice!

So with that, I wish you all a very happy New Year, and I look forward to writing again in 2023! ■

Davies MJ, Aroda VR, Collins BS et al (2022) Management of hyperglycaemia in type 2 diabetes, 2022. A consensus report by the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD). *Diabetologia* **65**: 1925–66

Wallymahmed M, Pearson S (2022) Should diabetes specialist nurses be Advanced Clinical Practitioners? *Journal of Diabetes Nursing* **26**: JDN225



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