JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Clinical Nurse Specialist – Neurological Conditions

Department: Clinical

Responsible to: Clinical Lead

Grade: SMH Band 7

Job Purpose

Provide autonomous, specialist nursing assessment, clinical advice, care coordination and continuity for people living with motor neurone disease (MND), and those important to them. Work as a senior clinician within a small, dedicated multidisciplinary team, supporting patients through changing needs, complex decisions, advance care planning and palliative and end-of-life care.
Play a key role in the coordination and delivery of the multidisciplinary MND clinic hosted at St Michael's Hospice, working collaboratively with visiting specialist clinicians including consultant neurologists and other members of the regional MND multidisciplinary team.

Provide specialist support for patients with other progressive neurodegenerative conditions where appropriate, including conditions such as progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), corticobasal degeneration (CBD) and Huntington's disease.

Contribute to evidence-informed service evaluation and, subject to agreed resources and governance, the development of support for other progressive neurological conditions.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Specialist clinical practice

- Undertake and document comprehensive holistic assessment, including function, symptoms, cognition, communication, psychological wellbeing, carer needs and risk; formulate and review individual care plans.
- Provide specialist assessment, advice and interventions for complex symptoms associated with MND, including breathlessness, secretion difficulties, pain, fatigue, swallowing and communication problems, within competence and agreed pathways.
- Identify deterioration, urgent concerns and potentially reversible problems; arrange timely review, referral or escalation to appropriate medical and specialist teams.
- Support anticipatory and advance care planning, ReSPECT discussions where appropriate, preferred place of care and sensitive conversations about future treatment and end-of-life care.
- Support shared decisions about interventions such as non-invasive ventilation, gastrostomy and assisted communication in collaboration with the relevant specialist clinicians; do not independently authorise interventions outside scope of practice.
- Provide expert advice and compassionate support to families and carers, including anticipatory guidance, bereavement needs and appropriate onward referral.

Caseload and coordinated care

- Hold and prioritise an agreed specialist caseload according to clinical need, complexity, risk and available capacity, with clear arrangements for the postholder’s non-working days.

- Work closely with the neurological and Living Well team, hospice medical and therapy colleagues, MND services, neurology, respiratory, dietetics, speech and language therapy, primary care and community services.
- Coordinate and support the planning, delivery and follow-up of the monthly multidisciplinary MND clinic, ensuring actions arising from clinic reviews are documented, communicated and implemented appropriately.
- Act as a key liaison between hospice services, primary care, community providers and secondary care teams to promote coordinated, person-centred care and continuity across organisational boundaries.
- Facilitate effective communication of care plans, advance care planning documentation, ReSPECT recommendations and significant clinical decisions between professionals involved in the patient's care.
- Contribute to and, where appropriate, coordinate MDT discussions, complex case reviews and transitions between hospital, hospice and home.
- Support smooth transitions of care between hospital, hospice and community settings.
- Provide clear communication, documented action plans, escalation arrangements and appropriate safety-netting for patients and professionals.

Clinical leadership and education

- Act as a specialist clinical resource and role model, supporting colleagues with complex assessment, decision-making and evidence-based neurological palliative care.
- Provide teaching, case discussion and professional support across hospice and partner services; promote reflective practice and shared learning.
- Maintain specialist expertise through CPD, supervision, relevant professional networks and engagement with current guidance and research.
- Contribute to strengthening collaborative relationships between St Michael's Hospice, regional neuroscience services, MND services and specialist palliative care providers.

Quality, governance and service development

- Contribute to the evaluation of service activity, referral patterns, patient experience, outcomes, unmet need and caseload capacity; provide reliable data to inform improvement and investment decisions.
- Help review referral criteria, pathways and equitable access, and identify proportionate opportunities to develop care for other progressive neurological conditions subject to organisational approval.
- Participate in audit, quality improvement, incident learning, safeguarding and clinical governance; develop guidance and patient information as agreed.
- Recognise, respond to and escalate safeguarding concerns in accordance with organisational policies and multi-agency procedures, contributing to safeguarding discussions and processes where appropriate.
- Identify and escalate clinical risk appropriately and contribute to learning, service improvement and the maintenance of high-quality patient care.
- Work collaboratively across St Michael’s and Rowans hospices where agreed to share expertise and support consistent standards.

General Responsibilities

- Work to maintain the values, vision and objectives of St. Michael’s Hospice.

- Additional Duties – In discussion with the line manager to undertake work, as and when required, in support of St. Michael's Hospice as an organisation.
- Public Relations – To represent St. Michael's Hospice in the community and public domain, including social media, appropriately.
- Undertake all statutory and mandatory training, as required.
- To be conversant with and adhere to all St. Michael's Hospice Policies and Procedures.
- Be responsible for upholding and promoting St. Michael's Hospice safeguarding policies, ensuring the safety and well-being of all individuals, and promptly reporting any concerns or incidents in accordance with established procedures.
- This is an outline job description and may be subject to change, according to the needs of the service, in consultation with the post holder.
- Take responsibility for own personal safety and of others whilst at work. You will take appropriate action or report any concerns to address any health and safety issues that you or members of your team may be aware of.
- This job description is an outline of the role and responsibilities. From time to time, due to the needs of the service, we may ask you to flexibly undertake other duties that are consistent with your role and banding, including project work, internal job rotation and absence cover.

Reviewed by:	Jo Fricker, Clinical Director	**Date:**	24/11/2026
Signed by employee:		**Date:**	