

Optimising spinal cord injury care in the acute setting: The role of the Advanced Clinical Practitioner

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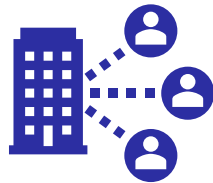
SCI Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Oxford University Hospitals

Aims



Background of role
establishment



Challenges within the
acute trust



Evaluate the impact of an
Acute SCI ACP on SCI
care within an MTC

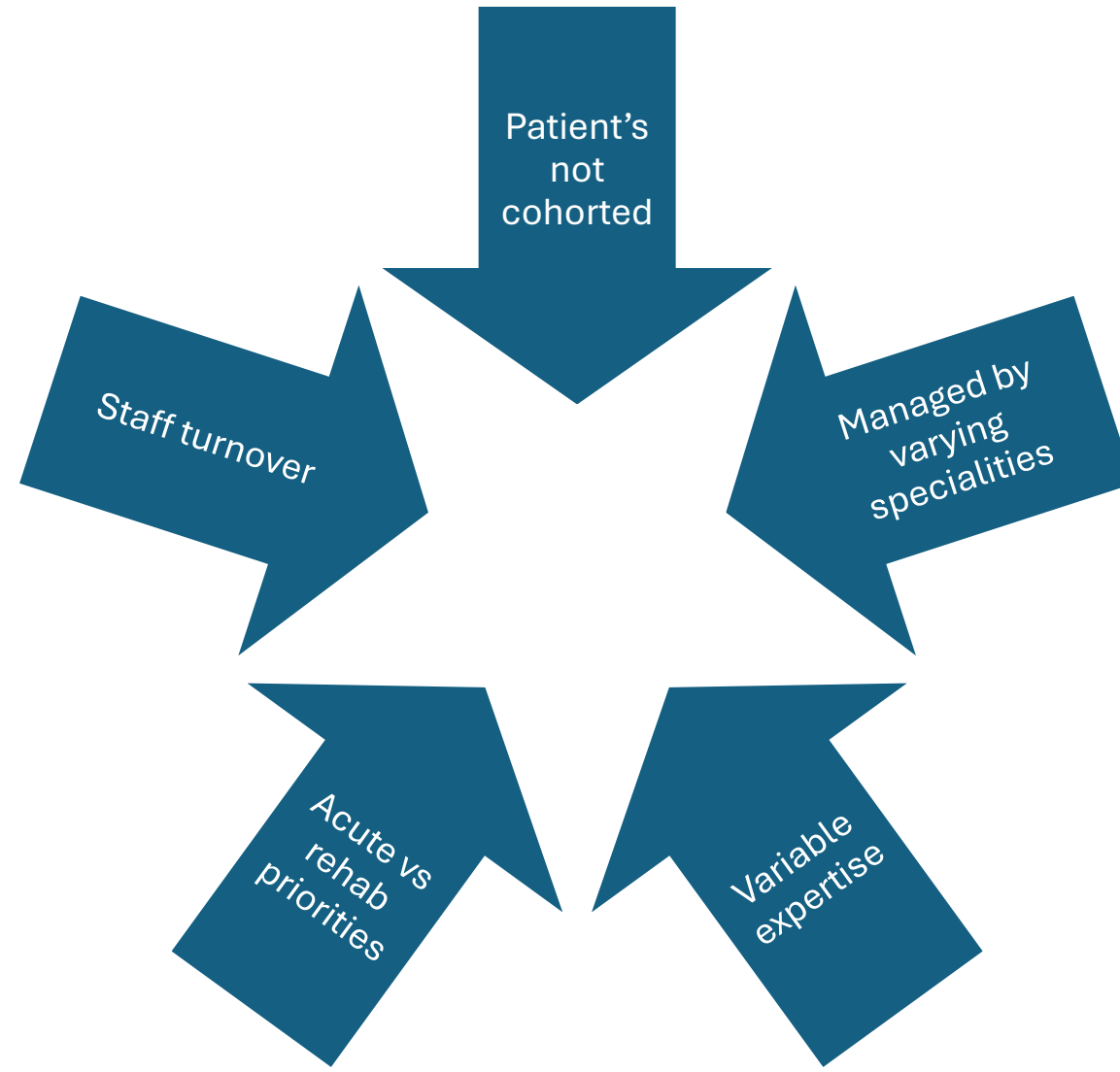


Opportunities and career
development

Background

- Delays in accessing specialist spinal cord injury centre
- SIA Annual Report 2024/25:
 - 3,772 referred to SCIC – 21% admitted, 33% outpatient (NSCID – England)
- Challenges in identifying alternative rehabilitation pathways
- May never be seen by a SCI specialist
- Prolonged admissions and increased complication risks
- Demonstrates a need for acute SCI specialists

Challenges in the acute setting



The role of an ACP



Clinical

Education

Leadership

Research

Clinical

Bowel management (99%)

Follow-up plans

Respiratory function (67%)

Skin management (86%)

**Broadened
level of
responsibility**

Spasticity (27%)

Therapy advice

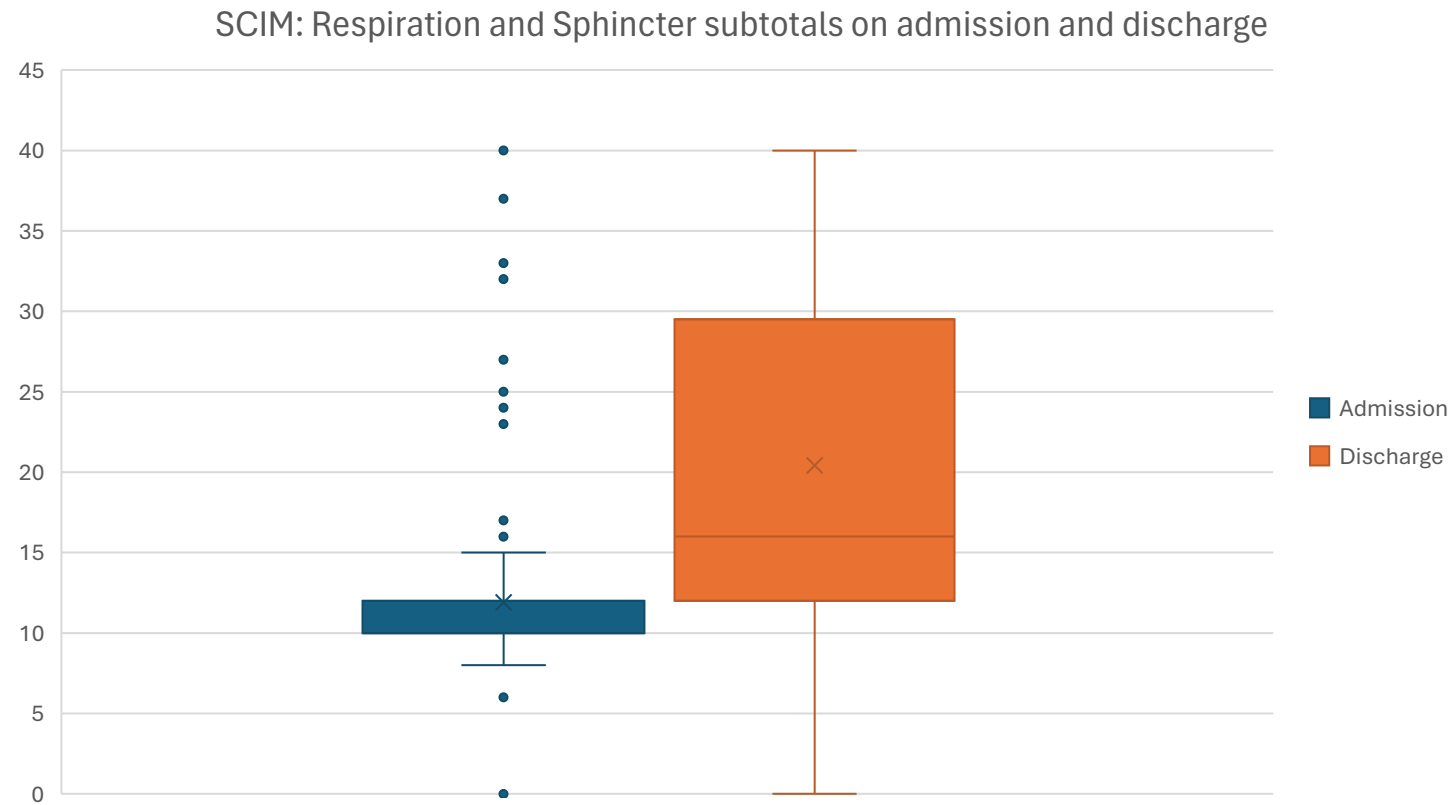
Patient education

Bladder (97%)

Autonomic dysfunction (76%)

Rehabilitation referrals

SCIM III analysis (n=85)



Significant improvement (mean score increases=8, $p < 0.01$)

The role of an ACP



Clinical

Education

Leadership

Research

Education

Monthly virtual education sessions

Proactive sessions

Face-to-face
rehabilitation
education
sessions

Team specific
education

Reactive session

Address any identified
areas for development

Virtual weekly
rehabilitation goal
planning sessions

Across all
aspects of
SCI care

Support from SCIC
education team

Increase in staff confidence across all topics ($p < 0.05$)
88.9% reporting a positive impact on practice

The role of an ACP



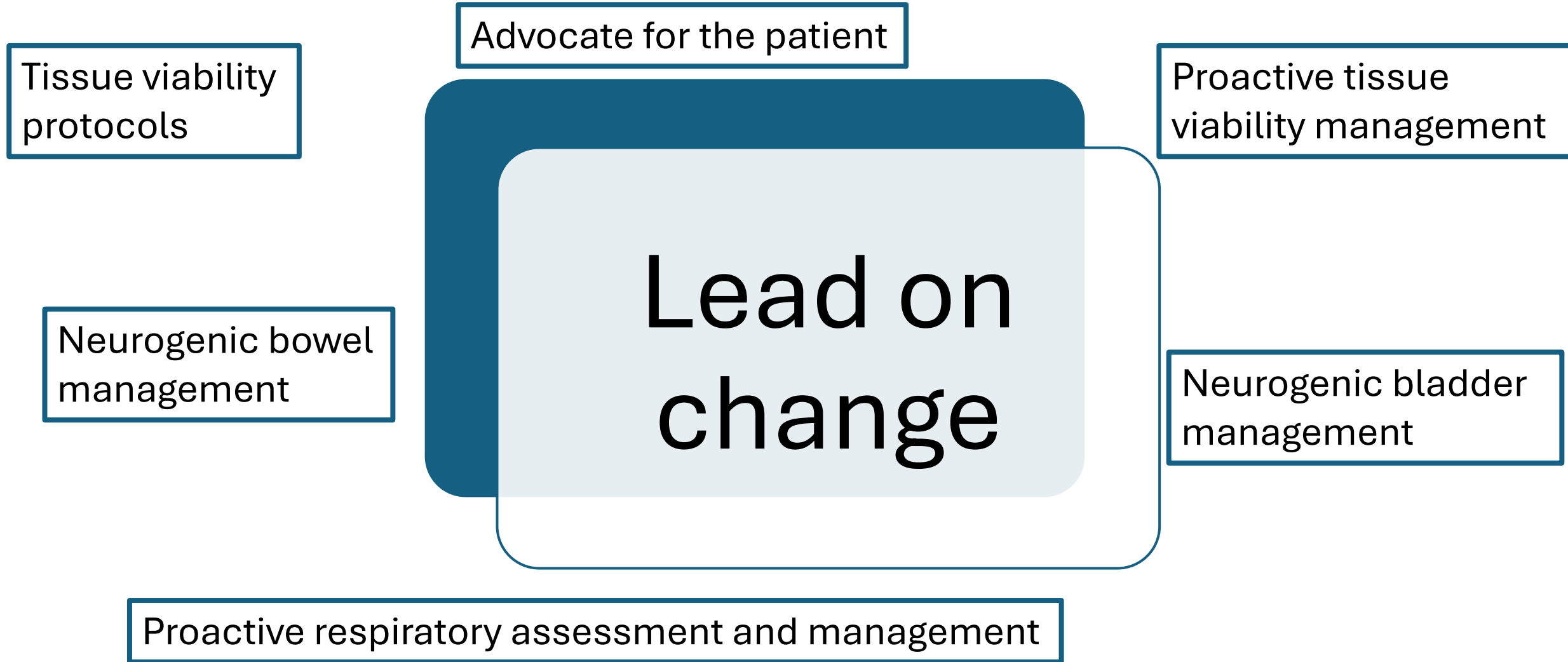
Clinical

Education

Leadership

Research

Leadership



The role of an ACP



Clinical

Education

Leadership

Research

Research

Service evaluation

Conference opportunities

Sharing of data
to support
national
initiatives

Research

Engaging in
research
opportunities

Overview of the impact of an acute SCI ACP

- Specialist holistic clinical care (all aetiology)
- Targeted education provision
- Leading on and implementing change
- Research opportunity
- Professional development
- Collaborative working - transform care from the point of admission

Patient and staff feedback

Extremely happy with my experience with all the SCI team. Everyone has been amazing and so helpful. Thank you

the Acute team is an in

You do an amazing job. You are a great team and I can't thank you enough.

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Thank you

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Oxford NHS trust helps to transform spinal cord injury care

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