



Paula Ryan

Limerick / Ireland

Current position

Paula is the Respiratory Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) within the University Hospital Limerick Group (UHLG) based in Limerick, Ireland. She has worked in the Respiratory Department at this hospital since 2010 initially working as a Respiratory Nurse Specialist for general respiratory patients. This was the first respiratory CNS post in the hospital so she set up the service for non-invasive ventilation, COPD, Asthma, TB, interstitial lung disease and sleep. The respiratory service has grown over the years and Paula was appointed the 1st adult respiratory RANP in Ireland in 2015. Paula manages a caseload of respiratory patients with symptoms suggestive of Asthma, COPD and ILD in her new role. Running three clinics a week seeing new and review patients.

Clinical

Paula originally qualified as an RGN and graduated in 2002 from South Bank University London. Returned to Ireland and worked mostly in an acute high dependency unit for years.

From an education aspect she has undertaken her Post Graduate Diploma in Respiratory Care, her Masters in Advanced Practice Nursing where she got an Honours Degree, her Nurse Prescribing in Medicinal Products and her nurse prescribing of medicinal Ionising Radiation.

Patients are referred to Paula through the respiratory service and general practitioners that may have asthma or COPD and all diagnosed ILD patients. Limerick is one of the six expert ILD centres in Ireland and Paula manages the service with her respiratory nurse colleagues in Limerick seeing a large number of patients monthly. Patients are pleased to have good links with the respiratory nurse team including pulmonary rehabilitation and oxygen services.

Teaching

Paula provides ILD support for respiratory nurses and health care professionals within the UHLG through local training sessions. Paula has spoken at many national conferences on ILD and the impact of ILD on patients. Paula's most recent talk on ILD was at the patient information day organised by Irish Lung Foundation Association (ILFA) talking to patients about symptom management.

Paula is a regular guest presenter at the University of Limerick which is the academic partner of UHLG.

Professional Service

Paula is a member of ANAIL (the Irish Respiratory Nurse Group) and due to be the Chairperson of ANAIL this November. She is an active member of the ANP national group also. Paula is heavily involved with the Irish Thoracic society to get the national ILD register up to date and ensure the UHLG patients are inputted on the database.