The role of the clinical educator in endoscopy

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A clinical educator role in an endoscopy unit bridges the gap between theory and clinical practice by providing dedicated bedside teaching, mentorship, and competency assessment that was previously absent from the department.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker, an endoscopy nurse at Northumbria Trust UK, describes establishing a new clinical educator position after approximately two years of endoscopy nursing experience, supported by prior experience as a pain specialist nurse and mentor.
- The role provides real-time guidance and hands-on training, maintains up-to-date learning materials in multiple formats, and creates individualised teaching approaches because everyone learns differently.
- Clinical educators remove teaching pressure from senior nurses who previously balanced clinical duties with training responsibilities, and because they are not counted in staffing numbers they have dedicated time for mentorship.
- The role involves assessing staff competencies within a structured workforce portfolio system, providing clear career pathways from induction through expert level to support staff progression and retention.
- Reality includes delivering microlearning in 5-10 minute sessions between cases due to high patient volume, managing change fatigue when introducing new technologies, and occasionally assisting clinically when the unit is short-staffed.
- The speaker states the role requires proficiency with tools like Excel and Canva, endless patience, willingness to continuously upgrade one's own skills, and notes a master's degree would be advantageous though not currently required.

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