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Whitehaven nurse one of first in England to receive National Credential

Posted on Tuesday 21st February 2017

A member of North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust staff is one of only three nurses in the country to gain a new credential from the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

 Whitehaven nurse one of first in England to receive National Credential

Nicola Holden (Mower), Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) working in the Emergency Medical Admissions Unit at West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven, has achieved the RCN Level Nursing Credential.

Nicola was one of the first to help the RCN test the criteria for the credential, and she will receive the credential free of charge. The credential will be launched more widely to nursing staff later this year.

Credentialing is a way of recognising and promoting nursing practice at an advanced level. It is an opportunity for nurses to show their expertise and skill in their clinical practice, their leadership, their education and their research. Any nurse working at an advanced level, who has non-medical prescribing rights and an active registration with the NMC (Nursing & Midwifery Council) can apply for the credential.

Nicola said: "I'm very proud to have been awarded this credential and to have had the opportunity to work with the RCN to test it. To be one of only three nurses in the country to achieve this feels great!"

Anna Stabler, deputy director of nursing midwifery & allied health professionals at the Trust, said: "This is a brilliant achievement for both Nicola and the Trust. She provides an extremely valuable service to patients in West Cumbria and it is very well deserved. Nicola has helped shape something which will be very valuable to ANPs in the future and she should feel very proud to be a part of that."

Feedback from the RCN about Nicola said: "This is a really important milestone in the road to national recognition for nurses working at such high levels of expertise and also a bonus for the Trust."

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