

**Title: COPD Adviceline Senior Physiotherapist**

**Location:** All staff are currently working remotely due to Government COVID-19 guidance but thereafter will be required to work in Leopardstown (COPD Support Ireland Head Office) as required

**Hours:** Part Time 10 hours per week

**Salary:** Available on request.

**Closing Date:** 10th September 2021

The Adviceline Physiotherapist will possess a degree in Physiotherapy, be registered with CORU and will have a minimum of two years in respiratory clinical practice; ideally in a Respiratory MDT setting such as COPD outreach, integrated care or pulmonary rehabilitation. They will also have at least two years of experience in chronic disease management. The COPD Adviceline is funded by the HSE and operated by the Asthma Society of Ireland with the assistance of COPD Support Ireland. The COPD Adviceline Physiotherapist will be jointly responsible for the COPD Adviceline service provision and development with the COPD Adviceline Clinical Nurse Specialist and will be based in COPD Support Ireland as an employee of the Asthma Society of Ireland.

The function of the Adviceline Physiotherapist is to provide evidence-based, disease specific advice and information to individuals and/or carers of people with COPD. This service is provided to adults and carers of those living with COPD.

# OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

* To provide easily accessible support, education and information to people with COPD to help them to better understand and manage their disease.
* To improve the quality of life of people living with COPD through empowerment, support, disease specific education and self-management education.
* To empower people to self-manage their COPD and to self-advocate in their interactions with healthcare professionals and services.
* To sign-post and connect people with appropriate local services, resources, and materials such as local support groups, exercise programmes, living well programmes, smoking cessation services and mental health resources.
* To encourage people to look after their general health and well-being by encouraging smoking cessation, physical activity, promoting vaccinations and self-management strategies.

# PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

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# And

**And**

# And

Be registered on the Physiotherapists Register maintained by the Physiotherapists Registration Board at CORU.

Practitioners must confirm annual registration with CORU to the ASI by way of the annual Patient Safety Assurance Certificate (PSAC)

Have at least 5 years post-qualification experience, with a minimum of two years in respiratory clinical practice. You will also have at least two years’ experience in chronic disease management.

Demonstrate evidence of continuous professional development.

1. Possess the requisite knowledge and ability, including a high standard of clinical, managerial, and administrative capacity, to properly discharge the functions of the role.

Post Specific Requirements

* + An in-depth knowledge of the role of the Senior Physiotherapist within chronic respiratory disease management
  + In-depth knowledge of the pathophysiology of COPD.
  + The ability to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the patient with COPD including taking an accurate history of their respiratory condition and presenting problems.
  + The ability to formulate a plan of care.
  + In-depth knowledge of the HSE patient support tools developed by NCP Respiratory for COPD.
  + Experience and interest in promoting and teaching COPD Self-management strategies .
  + Excellent presentation and interpersonal communication skills.
  + An active interest in creating a strong patient relationship using the Adviceline as an interventional tool to support COPD management.
  + Experience of working within a Respiratory multidisciplinary team, ideally with some experience in Pulmonary Rehabilitation.
  + A motivated self-starter comfortable with decision making and seeing opportunities to drive and grow the service.
  + Must be computer literate – Word, Excel, Power Point and ideally familiar with CRM reporting systems. The service is delivered utilizing Salesforce, and training will be provided in how to use this system.

# KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

* + To be proficient and expert in the areas of COPD management.
  + To encourage people to look after their general health and well-being by encouraging smoking cessation, physical activity, promoting vaccinations and teaching self-management strategies.
  + Provide specialist self-management education including, sputum clearance, relaxation, breathing control, exercise and breathlessness management techniques.
  + Identify and promote specific symptom management strategies as well as the identification of triggers which may cause exacerbation of symptoms. Provide patients with appropriate self- management strategies and escalation/de-escalation plans.
  + Identify health promotion priorities for the patient, family and/or carer and support patient self- care in line with best evidence and utilising principles laid out by MECC (Make Every Contact Count). This will include the provision of educational and health promotion material, which is comprehensive, easy to understand and meets patients’ needs.
  + Maintain clinical competence in COPD patient management, keeping up to date with relevant research to ensure the implementation of evidence- based practice.
  + Provide the patient, family and/or carer with appropriate information and other supportive interventions to increase their knowledge, skill, and confidence in managing their COPD.
  + Contribute to the design, development and implementation of call packages, education programmes and resources for the patient, family and/or carer in relation to COPD thus empowering them to manage their own condition independently and autonomously.
  + To report all patient consultations on Salesforce in a professional and ethical manner.
  + To respond to queries in a supportive and timely manner, ensuring caller dignity and maintaining confidentiality and anonymity as appropriate.
  + To ensure the information provided to callers is from evidence based clinical sources, in line with national and international best practice guidelines.
  + To recommend and support the development of additional COPD Support Ireland services and products such as articles, booklets, devices, clinics etc.
  + To triage patients and escalate medical intervention in an expedient and professional manner when required through communication with the patient’s healthcare team.
  + Keep informed of, support and participate in campaigns, events and promotional activities of COPD Support Ireland as needed.

Note:

The function of the Adviceline Senior Physiotherapist role is to provide evidence based clinical advice, information and education to individuals and/or carers of people with COPD and asthma.

You will be required to respond to all enquiries in a timely manner, Monday to Friday and according to the operational guideline / policies of the ASI and adhering to the ISCP and CORU Code of Conduct, to ensure the highest standards of care are being maintained and professional responsibilities in caring for patients are implemented in a safe, ethical, and effective way. It is the responsibility of the Senior Physiotherapist to familiarise themselves with the ISCP and CORU Code of Conduct. The Senior Physiotherapist must be on the current CORU Physiotherapy register. The Senior Physiotherapist will operate within their scope of practice and will have yearly evidence of Continuous Professional Development.

In addition to your hours-of- service provision, you are required to attend evaluation meetings every six weeks – Learning Team Meetings (LTMs). These meetings (LTMs) will take place in the Asthma Society of Ireland’s Office, Amiens Street, the COPD Support Ireland Office, Leopardstown, Dublin 18 or virtually from home.

You are required to attend educational meetings/symposia to maintain and continue your education as required in all aspects of physiotherapy professional development and to keep up to date with national and local resources available to support those living with Chronic Respiratory Disease.

You are required to be flexible in this position as other responsibilities within your skill set, may be assigned to you in addition to or outside your normal duties as the service requires.

# HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying for the role, please send a cover letter and an up-to date CV, by email to [hr@asthmasociety.ie](mailto:hr@asthmasociety.ie)

For informal enquiries about the role, contact Joan Johnston, General Manager, COPD Support Ireland on [GM@copd.ie](mailto:GM@copd.ie)

Closing Date

Friday 10th September 2021 at 5pm