

Midlands Fellowship Programme

Programme Description

Reference	Neonatal Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) fellowship
Role Locality	Midlands
Number of Roles	1
Contact for further information	Dr Harsha Gowda, harsha.gowda1@nhs.net

Role Description

Job Title: Neonatal Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) fellowship

Location: Midlands Region, United Kingdom

To apply for a Fellowship:

- o The duration will be 11 month fixed term (September 2026 – August 2027)
- o Fellowships will be 40% project time, with the remainder spent in your normal training programme or clinical work
- o All fellows must remain with the same employer for the duration of the fellowship unless agreed with the fellowship leads
- o Fellowships are post foundation training opportunities
- o All fellows must have either a NTN or confirmation of approval from their employer prior to the start of the fellowship
- o All resident doctors in training must have prior approval from their TPD to train LTFT before applying
- o Fellowship work does not count towards CCT capabilities

About Us:

The Neonatal POCUS Fellowship Programme in the West Midlands has been developed to shape future healthcare leaders. It supports the next generation of healthcare professionals in developing essential leadership skills, with a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration and adaptability to meet the evolving demands of modern healthcare.

In addition to leadership development, the programme provides structured training in point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS). Fellows will gain competency in key areas including lung, cardiac, line and catheter placement, cranial, and abdominal ultrasound, equipping them with practical skills to enhance clinical decision-making and patient care.

Role Description

Position Overview:

Fellows joining this programme can expect a highly supportive and academically rich environment focused on developing both clinical and leadership capabilities within neonatal care. The fellowship offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the design, implementation, and evaluation of a structured Neonatal Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) programme within a busy tertiary neonatal unit.

The fellow will play a central role in developing a standardized Neonatal POCUS curriculum aligned with international best practice and competency frameworks. This will include supporting the delivery of teaching and hands-on training across core applications such as cardiac, lung, cranial, abdominal, and line-related ultrasound. There will be opportunities to engage in teaching, mentorship, and assessment of trainees using structured competency tools.

Clinically, the fellow will contribute to integrating POCUS into routine neonatal workflows, helping to enhance real-time bedside decision-making and improve early diagnosis of key neonatal conditions. The role will also involve working closely with multidisciplinary teams to ensure safe, effective, and sustainable implementation of POCUS in clinical practice. A strong emphasis will be placed on quality improvement and patient safety. The fellow will lead and participate in projects evaluating the impact of POCUS on clinical outcomes, workflow efficiency, and patient experience, including reducing reliance on traditional imaging where appropriate. This includes developing protocols for image acquisition, documentation, governance, and quality assurance.

In addition, the fellowship provides opportunities for research and academic output. Fellows will be supported to evaluate programme outcomes, explore barriers to implementation, and generate data suitable for presentation at national meetings or publication. Overall, the post is ideal for motivated individuals seeking to develop expertise in neonatal POCUS, clinical leadership, education, and service innovation.

Key Responsibilities:

Lead the development and refinement of a structured Neonatal Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) programme within the neonatal unit. This includes designing a curriculum aligned with international standards, embedding POCUS into clinical pathways, and ensuring sustainability through governance frameworks, protocols, and standard operating procedures.

Role Description

Education, Training and Capability Building (Aligned to NHS Leadership Framework):

Support the delivery of a comprehensive education programme for neonatal clinicians, including simulation, bedside teaching, and competency-based assessments. Map training outcomes to the NHS Healthcare Leadership Model by fostering skills in clinical decision-making, team working, and continuous improvement. Contribute to building a workforce competent in safe and effective POCUS use.

Clinical Integration and Service Improvement:

Facilitate the integration of POCUS into routine neonatal care to enhance real-time diagnostic capability and timely clinical decision-making. Work collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams to improve pathways for common neonatal conditions and ensure POCUS complements existing diagnostic services.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety:

Design and lead quality improvement initiatives to evaluate the impact of POCUS on patient outcomes, efficiency, and safety. Develop systems for image governance, documentation, and quality assurance, ensuring adherence to best practice and minimising clinical risk.

Research, Evaluation and Innovation:

Undertake programme evaluation to assess educational and clinical outcomes, including clinician competency, diagnostic accuracy, and patient impact. Contribute to research outputs, including presentations and publications, and support the development of an evidence base for Neonatal POCUS.

Leadership, Collaboration and Network Engagement:

Work closely with regional and national neonatal networks, educational bodies (Eg: NeoFOCUS-UK), and professional groups (Eg: BAPM, RCPCH) to align the programme with wider NHS priorities. Build collaborative relationships across disciplines, contributing to shared learning and dissemination of best practice.

Sustainability:

Contribute to establishing a lasting Neonatal POCUS service by embedding training, governance, and continuous improvement processes. Explore innovative approaches, including digital solutions and simulation, to ensure the programme evolves with future clinical and educational needs.

Qualifications and Skills:

Role Description

Paediatric resident doctor ST4+

Medical professional with proven leadership capabilities

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams.

Strong problem-solving and facilitation skills.

Benefits:

This fellowship offers a unique blend of clinical, educational, and leadership development within a high-performing neonatal service.

Advanced Clinical Skill Development:

Gain hands-on expertise in Neonatal Point-of-Care Ultrasound across multiple applications, developing a highly sought-after skillset that enhances bedside diagnostic capability and clinical confidence.

Leadership and Management Experience:

Develop practical leadership skills through programme design, implementation, and service improvement work, aligned with the NHS Healthcare Leadership Model. This provides strong preparation for future consultant leadership roles.

Education and Teaching Opportunities:

Build experience in curriculum development, simulation-based education, and trainee supervision. Fellows will enhance their portfolio in medical education and contribute to regional and national teaching initiatives.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety:

Lead impactful quality improvement projects that directly influence neonatal care, improving patient outcomes, safety, and service efficiency.

Research and Academic Output:

Opportunities to present work at national meetings and contribute to publications, supporting career progression and academic development.

Role Description

Networking and National Exposure:

Engage with regional neonatal networks, national bodies, and special interest groups, building valuable professional connections and gaining insight into wider NHS structures.

Mentorship and Career Development:

Receive close mentorship from senior clinical and educational leaders, with support tailored to individual career goals in neonatology, education, or leadership.

Portfolio Enhancement:

Strengthen your CV with experience in clinical innovation, leadership, teaching, and research—highly advantageous for future consultant or senior leadership applications.

Legacy and Impact:

Play a key role in establishing a sustainable Neonatal POCUS programme, leaving a lasting impact on clinical practice, training, and patient care within the neonatal service.

A point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) simulator is available within the neonatal unit as part of our commitment to structured education and skill development. Fellows are encouraged to use this resource to build foundational and advanced ultrasound competencies in a safe, supervised environment. The simulator allows repeated practice of image acquisition, interpretation, and clinical decision-making without risk to patients. In addition, fellows are supported to take on a teaching role, using the simulator to deliver training sessions to junior doctors and allied health professionals, thereby promoting a culture of shared learning and continuous professional development within the unit. The simulator can be used to learn and teach a wide range of POCUS applications, including lung, cardiac, cranial, abdominal, renal, and umbilical line imaging.