

# Andreea Palcu- Lape

Expert Witness

Nurse

*Liability: Nursing / Clinical Governance / Pain Management*



## Professional Background

Andreea is an experienced Senior Nurse Specialist and Clinical Governance professional with a career spanning surgical nursing, acute and chronic pain management, duty nurse management, and trust-wide quality and risk functions. Her clinical background includes surgical ward nursing across urology, gynaecology, upper GI and colorectal services (2015 – 2017), specialist pain roles in both acute and chronic pain management (2017 – 2022), private-sector clinical pain work, and extensive experience as Duty Nurse Manager coordinating hospital-wide patient flow, escalation and operational responses to clinical events. Since 2022, Andreea has worked as a Quality and Risk Manager, leading incident investigations, complaints reviews, audits, and safety-improvement initiatives across a large NHS organisation.

Andreea conducts investigations into clinical incidents, adverse events, near misses and complaints using Root Cause Analysis (RCA), SEIPS, PSIRF principles, human-factors methodology, timeline reconstruction and detailed analysis of clinical documentation. Her work involves reviewing observation charts, medication records, nursing notes, escalation pathways and Datix reports to identify deviations from NICE guidance, Royal College recommendations, local policy requirements and the NMC Code. She examines contributory factors across workforce, communication, environmental conditions, clinical processes and organisational systems to produce structured, evidence-based conclusions.

Her breach-of-duty analysis is grounded in systematic comparison of expected versus actual care, assessment of omissions, incomplete observations, missed triggers, and failures in escalation or monitoring. Examples include postoperative cases where sedation-related respiratory decline was not escalated despite early warning criteria being met, and deterioration cases identified retrospectively through NEWS2 review, SBAR communication analysis, and documentation evaluation. These reviews consider contextual pressures such as workload and acuity without compromising the determination of avoidable or foreseeable deviations from expected standards. Andreea has extensive experience in deterioration and escalation management, including NEWS2, ABCDE, postoperative monitoring standards, opioid-related risk identification, and structured communication frameworks such as SBAR. In her governance work, she routinely evaluates whether escalation thresholds were recognised and acted on, and whether documentation and monitoring aligned with expected professional standards. She also has significant safeguarding expertise, reviewing cases involving neglect, self-neglect, reduced capacity, behavioural risk indicators, unexplained injuries, omissions in care and failures to escalate safeguarding concerns. Her safeguarding work involves detailed chronology building, record review, recognition of risk indicators, and evaluation of compliance with statutory duties under the Care Act.

Andreea leads quality-improvement and governance projects, policy development, service audits, education programmes and implementation of improved pain-management practices. As Lead Pain Clinical Nurse Specialist, she developed and updated inpatient pain-management policies, ensuring safe opioid practice, PCA monitoring requirements and alignment with national guidance. She provides teaching on documentation standards, risk assessment, escalation behaviour and clinical reasoning, supporting improved practice across multidisciplinary teams. Her background in clinical practice, patient safety investigation, governance leadership and staff education enables Andreea to provide balanced, independent and analytically robust medico-legal opinion. Andreea is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise.

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## Specialisms

- Surgical nursing (urology, gynaecology, upper GI, colorectal)
- Acute and chronic pain management, including PCA and opioid safety
- Post-operative complication review and escalation failures
- Pressure-ulcer and wound-care related governance review
- Falls risk assessment, post-fall investigation, and contributory factor analysis
- Safeguarding investigations involving vulnerability, capacity, self-neglect, and omissions in care
- Deterioration recognition and escalation (NEWS2, ABCDE, SBAR)
- Investigation of clinical incidents, complaints, near misses and adverse events (RCA, SEIPS, PSIRF)
- Analysis of clinical documentation, care plans, drug charts, and observation charts
- Identification of system-level contributory factors (workforce, processes, communication, environment)
- Clinical Governance, Quality & Risk Management
- Assessment of incomplete or inaccurate clinical observations
- Policy development and implementation of clinical standards
- Education and competency assessment in pain management, escalation, documentation, and risk awareness
- Duty Nurse Manager experience coordinating hospital-wide activity, escalation and safety flow

## Career history

- Quality and Risk Manager 2022 - Present  
The Princess Grace Hospital, London, Greater London
  - Ensuring that systems and processes for risk and governance are compliant with legislation, national standards, guidelines and recommendations such as the CQC, NHS Improvement, NHS England, Health and Safety Executive;
  - Experienced in conducting investigations, after action reviews and root cause analysis;
  - Audit lead accountable for hospital-wide compliance and quality improvement;
  - Strong analytical and presentation skills.
- Module Lead MSc 2021 - Present  
University College, London
  - Responsible for developing, organising and managing the MSc Module "Strategies for the Self-Management of Pain".
  - My role extended to overseeing all aspects of monitoring, evaluation, and review activities within the module.
  - I engaged in active liaison with key individuals and collaborative partners, fostering a dynamic learning environment. This collaborative effort was instrumental in the successful delivery of tutorials and workshops, enriching the overall educational experience.
  - I organized and orchestrated workshops designed to provide students with hands-on, practical experiences that complemented the theoretical aspects of the module. These workshops aimed to empower students with essential skills and knowledge.



## Career history

- PI meticulously prepared materials for the weekly video tutorials, ensuring that they were comprehensive, engaging, and aligned with the module's learning objectives. These materials served as a vital resource for students' self-paced learning and comprehension.
  
- **Lead Pain Specialist Nurse** 2019 - 2022  
The Princess Grace Hospital, HCA Healthcare UK, London
  - Taking accountability for delivering specialised pain management strategies to acute and chronic patients.
  - Formulating comprehensive treatment plans encompassing both pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions.
  - Facilitating referrals to pertinent specialists for in-depth evaluation based on individual patient symptoms.
  - Effectively managing patients' pain medications, including prescription oversight and dosage adjustments as required.
  - Advocating pain education and promoting healthier lifestyles by providing patients with information about available resources and support services for chronic pain.
  - Elevating standards by conducting audits and leading discussions on reports, audits, and received data during Quality and Safety Group Meetings.
  - Developing guidelines and protocols grounded in evidence-based information, specifically focused on the safe administration of controlled drugs.
  
- **Duty Nurse Manager** 2019 - 2022  
HCA Healthcare UK, London
  - Responsible for providing support to the nursing staff to ensure timely and efficient completion of clinical activities within budget and in compliance with hospital standards. I oversaw daily operations and collaborated with clinical and managerial personnel to resolve concerns and respond to emergencies, all while maintaining high standards of care and ensuring a positive patient experience.
  
- **Pain Specialist Nurse** 2017 - 2019  
University College London Hospitals, London
  - Conducted thorough patient assessments, including a detailed medical history and physical examination, to accurately diagnose and manage pain conditions;
  - Developed and implemented individualised pain management plans that incorporate a variety of treatment modalities, including medications, physical therapy, and alternative therapies;
  - Monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of pain management interventions, adjusting treatment plans as necessary to achieve optimal outcomes;
  - Collaborated with healthcare professionals across multiple disciplines to ensure coordinated and comprehensive care for patients with complex pain conditions



## Qualifications

- Diploma of Higher Education, Advanced clinical practice 2022  
King's College London - London
  - Advanced Assessment Skills
  - Non-Medical Independent Prescribing
  - Pathophysiology
- Master of Science, Pain Management 2020  
University College London - London, United Kingdom Thesis:
  - Improving pain management in an independent healthcare setting
- Master of Science, Political Science, Security And Diplomacy 2014  
National School Of Political Studies - Bucharest, Romania Thesis:
  - Breaches in the security of electronic health record systems
- Bachelor of Science, Nursing 2013  
Green Ecologic Foundation, Bucharest, Romania
- Bachelor of Science, Sociology and Social Work 2012  
University of Bucharest - Bucharest, Romania

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## Professional Memberships

- NMC registered