

NURSING IN THE UK

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nursing in the UK involves caring for the whole person (holistic care). This includes emotional, social, psychological, spiritual and physical factors rather than just a disease or injury. Nursing care is based on the best evidence available (evidence based) and focuses on the individual needs of people using the healthcare system. Nurses are concerned as much with helping people to stay well, as with giving care when illness or injury occur.

HOW NURSING IS REGULATED IN THE UK

Nursing and midwifery are regulated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). The role of the NMC includes:

— Keeping a register of practitioners (656 000 qualified registered nurses and midwives in 2003). In 2004 a new three-part Register – nursing, midwifery and specialist community public health nursing – replaced a register with 15 parts. The nursing part of the register has separate sections for first level and second-level nurses. The register also notes the particular branch of nursing – adult, learning disability, children or mental health. The second-level section of the register is for existing enrolled nurses, but this is closed to new UK applicants. However, it must be open to existing second-level nurses who qualified in certain other European countries in order to comply with European Directive.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND TRADE UNIONS

The vast majority of UK nurses and midwives, and students join a professional organization or trade union. There are several trade unions to choose from, but the two most popular ones with nurses are the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and Unison, who have about 600 000 members between them. Many trade unions provide continuing education for nurses through study days, courses, conferences and nursing journals. Some organizations', notably the RCN and RCM, provide extensive libraries. Furthermore, the RCN has one of the largest nonuniformity affiliated nursing libraries in the world. The National Nursing Association (NNA) in the UK is the RCN. It is a member of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and is the UK representative on the Standing Committee of Nurses in Europe.

WHERE NURSES WORK – NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In the 1980s, new nurse education programs, called Project 2000 (PK2), were introduced. This moved nurse education into the higher education sector and nursing students were no longer considered part of the nursing workforce, as they had been before, and led to an increased employment of healthcare assistants (HCAs) and auxiliaries. HCAs often give the 'hands-on' care, and increasingly do more complex activities because the role of nurses has expanded and changed. Nurses today work not only in hospitals but also in the community. In fact, over a third of all UK nurses work in

the community – with people in their own homes and in clinics, and in the workplace as occupational health nurses.

Conclusion Kingdom has a higher quality of service and provides good care to patients, and as in other parts of the world there is an excellent quality of care since as a health area, we care that patients are well and currently more nurses continue to register and with the passage of time will continue to improve the advances of medicine and care. Also, with the conduct of health personnel, the rights of patients will be improved so that there is no conflict and all the progress of this area will be recorded.

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A guide to working in the UK

Joy Parkinson BA

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