



Royal College
of Nursing

Introduction

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. We aim to think and act as part of the global community.

We work closely with UK, European and international agencies, including trade unions, professional associations and voluntary organisations to help shape health policy in the interests of the public, patients and our members. We work



Promoting excellence in practice

1. Place patients and patient safety at the forefront of everything we do. Support improvements in professional standards by contributing to the full range of nursing activity: improve the way in which knowledge and evidence is used in decision-making to ensure that health care is safe, effective and centred on people.
2. Develop and disseminate clinical best practice: challenge clinical and management systems that impede good care. Work with patient groups, employers and other health care providers to highlight good practice and to identify evidence that demonstrates a failure to provide the quality of service required.
3. As the largest professional union in the world, with more than 420,000 members, use the full range of our membership's professional clinical skills to deliver measurable improvements in practice through our member networks, education and advice services, guidance and influencing work.
4. Work with other royal colleges, significant stakeholders and education training boards, to promote and maintain innovative international and European relationships to maximise opportunities that support the nursing voice.
5. Use our knowledge and profile to demonstrate to the public how nursing contributes to safeguarding health and wellbeing.
6. Respond positively to public interest and concerns about nursing, giving an accurate picture of the profession, showing what nursing can offer and presenting RCN members as guardians of the profession.

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Shaping health policies

- 11. Draw on the best available evidence and expertise to contribute to change in health and social care policy. Recognise the wider determinants of health and become more proactive in advocating and supporting greater engagement between nursing, health and other sectors that affect the wellbeing of a population.**
- 12. Lead and cultivate from the grassroots policies that influence nursing and the wider health and social care economy. Provide information to members about the key policy work being undertaken.**
- 13. Share intelligence and work collaboratively within the RCN and with other organisations. Support capacity building in other national nursing associations and global partnerships.**
- 14. Use RCN expertise to influence Governments, opinion formers and decision makers.**

Representing nurses and nursing

20. Campaign for a respectful working environment. Highlight how nursing staff have to balance care against bureaucracy and lobby for greater protection around whistleblowing without recrimination. Address the issue of increased disciplinary action against nurses and the prevalence of suspension and referral to the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
21. Empower nurses to speak up when asked to work outside their

An **effective,** value-for-money organisation

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