The Principles of Nursing Practice

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opportunitynowhere
How will I think or act differently as a result of today’s learning event?
If we always do what we’ve always done...

...we’ll always get what we’ve always got!
True North
The main thing is to keep the main thing the MAIN THING
The Principles of Nursing Practice
Principles of Nursing Practice

Welcome. These pages introduce the Principles of Nursing Practice.

The Principles describe what everyone can expect from nursing practice, whether colleagues, patients, their families or carers.

The Principles were developed by the Royal College of Nursing in partnership with the Department of Health (England), the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and patient and service user organisations.

New roadshow

The RCN is holding Principles of Nursing Practice roadshows around the country. These events will help you to gain an invaluable and practical understanding of how the Principles can be used in your workplace.

A Principles of Nursing Practice roadshow is being held on 15 February 2012 by RCN North West Region at the Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool. For the outline programme and how to book see RCN North West Region Principles of Nursing Practice roadshow (Word 31KB).

A general flyer about the roadshows is available at Principles of Nursing Practice roadshows flyer (PDF 242KB) - see how to access PDF files.

Overview of London roadshow

The conference, held in London on 18 October at RCN headquarters, included presentations from the NMC, CQC and Energise 4 Excellence, who all talked about how the Principles aligned with their work. Jane Bromwich offered excellent perspectives from implementing the Principles at her Trust in Kent. Workshops explored Macmillan human rights standards work and how this might support implementing the Principles; potential Principles Champions projects; and embedding the Principles strategically in NHS Scotland. Further information from the conference will be made available in this resource.

How to use the site

Peter Carter, Chief Executive and General Secretary of the RCN, explains the importance of the Principles of Nursing Practice in the purpose. You can also read messages of support for the Principles including messages from patient and user groups.

The full text of the Principles is available in the Principles.

Pages for each of the Principles pointing to activities and resources to support their use can be accessed from the left hand menu of this resource. These will be updated to reflect new developments as they occur.

You can find out about the Principles are being used and read the examples.

Frequently asked questions about the Principles can be found in you and the Principles.

An explanation of the relationship between the Principles and other publications is available in how the Principles relate.

You can also see an animation using stories to animate the Principles on the story wall.

You can learn more about how the Principles can be used to evaluate in measuring up to the Principles.

Further details about the work the RCN is doing on identifying suitable measures can be found here in RCN endorsement of measures.

The RCN has several publications relating to the Principles of Nursing Practice available. For details see Principles publications.
The Principles of Nursing Practice describe what everyone can expect from nursing. They make clear exactly what quality nursing care looks like and provide a framework for supporting the evaluation of care through the development of useful measures.

Dr Peter Carter - Chief Executive & General Secretary, Royal College of Nursing
The Principles of Nursing Practice

Dignity, humanity & equality

Accountability & responsibility

Safety

Effective communication

Person-centred care

Applying skills & knowledge

Continuous care across teams

Leadership & responsive care

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Continuous care across teams
Nurses and nursing staff treat everyone in their care with dignity and humanity – they understand their individual needs, show compassion and sensitivity, and provide care in a way that respects all people equally.
Nurses and nursing staff take responsibility for the care they provide and answer for their own judgments and actions – they carry out these actions in a way that is agreed with their patients, and the families and carers of their patients, and in a way that meets the requirements of their professional bodies and the law.

Principle B

Accountability and responsibility
Principle C
Safety

Nurses and nursing staff manage risk, are vigilant about risk, and help to keep everyone safe in the places they receive health care.
Nurses and nursing staff provide and promote care that puts people at the centre, involves patients, service users, their families and their carers in decisions and helps them make informed choices about their treatment and care.
Principle E
Effective communication

Nurses and nursing staff are at the heart of the communication process: they assess, record and report on treatment and care, handle information sensitively and confidentially, deal with complaints effectively, and are conscientious in reporting the things they are concerned about.
Principle F
Applying skills and knowledge

Nurses and nursing staff have up-to-date knowledge and skills, and use these with intelligence, insight and understanding in line with the needs of each individual in their care.
Principle G
Continuous care across teams

Nurses and nursing staff work closely with their own team and with other professionals, making sure patients’ care and treatment is co-ordinated, is of a high standard and has the best possible outcome.
Nurses and nursing staff lead by example, develop themselves and other staff, and influence the way care is given in a manner that is open and responds to individual needs.
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Final Thoughts
Applying skills & knowledge

Effective communication

Leadership & responsive care

Continuous care across teams

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