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Nursing and St John Ambulance

Nursing in St John Ambulance

Nursing has a proud history at St John Ambulance, stretching back over 900 years. We pride ourselves on the quality of our services and are committed to providing communities with the very best immediate care.

Registered nurses are vital members of our team. As champions of patient safety, they are responsible for ensuring that our excellent clinical standards and high quality of service are maintained.

Working with other healthcare professionals and first aid members, nurses ensure that our range of immediate care services continues to make the difference between a life lost and a life saved.

Clinical care

As with other healthcare professionals (HCPs), nurses have a range of skills and competencies dependent on their job role and experience. Within their practice on behalf of St John Ambulance, nurses can practice to the extent of their competencies. Given the transferability of skills and their professional judgement, nurses from the different branches of the NMC register can all practice within St John Ambulance.



Accountability

Active at all levels in the organisation, nurses provide a range of skills and services for which they are accountable under their professional code of conduct, whether by 'act or by omission'. Most choose to work as a nurse although a small number choose to work in one of the other branches of care provided by the organisation (for example, ambulance care or operational roles). All, no matter what their role, remain accountable as registered nurses to their code of conduct (2) and can be recognised by the grey epaulettes of their uniform.

'Nurses are great at co-ordinating and managing care, teaching and supporting, maintaining clinical standards and being confident 'doers'. Nurses are clinical leaders.' (1)

Chief Nursing Officer

Teaching and supporting

Given the range of experience and their professional backgrounds nurses are well placed to teach and support their first aid colleagues both during training sessions and when on duty. Teaching takes many forms and the opportunities that arise when working on duty are numerous and range from clinical care to infection control, from teamwork to leadership. In this way not only do the first aid members gain from having their professional colleagues around them but organisationally the clinical standards of the organisation are maintained.



Leadership

Nurses are clinical leaders. Day in and day out in their working lives nurses lead and co-ordinate teams providing care. Within St John Ambulance this skill set is important as our care is being provided by multi-disciplinary teams including healthcare professionals and first aiders. Nurses are routinely involved in the clinical governance, local and county-wide management roles as well as within national leadership.

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Nursing students

Nursing students are active members of St John Ambulance across each county; frequently members of their university based LINKS units many also maintain their ties to their home divisions. Working alongside named mentors, nursing students practice in an immediate care environment gathering valuable experience supplementary to their formal clinical placements thus providing interesting and varied additions to the usual opportunities available to their peers.



References:

1. Leary, Alison (2008), Chief Nursing Officer's presentation, Clinical Forum 2008. St John Ambulance, London
2. NMC (2009) Advice sheet: Registered nurses or midwives working as Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) or other non-registered support roles; Nursing & Midwifery Council, London. Available online at www.nmc-uk.org [accessed 6/7-09].