



How the RCN supports professional behaviour

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What we will cover



Definition of nursing



Principles of nursing



RCN Forums & the Defence Nursing Forum



RCN support



Raising concerns



Definition of nursing

Nursing is the largest safety critical profession in health and social care. The nursing team is diverse and includes the nursing support workforce.

The RCN last published a definition of nursing in 2003. This resource includes a new definition that depicts the change and increased complexity that the nursing profession has seen over the last two decades.

The Principles of Nursing are mapped to and complement the [NMC Code](#)⁷ (for registrants).

Definition of Nursing



Nursing is a safety critical profession founded on four pillars: clinical practice, education, research, and leadership.

Registered nurses use evidence-based knowledge, professional and clinical judgement to assess, plan, implement and evaluate high-quality person-centred nursing care.



Principles of nursing



**Principle A - Equality,
Diversity and Inclusion**



Principle B - Accountability



**Principle C - Safety Critical,
Safe Care**



**Principle D - Personalised
Person-Centred Care**



**Principle E - Communication
and Informatics**



**Principle F - Knowledge and
Skills**



**Principle G - Professional
Standards**



Principle H - Leadership



RCN Forums and the Defence Nursing Forum



Forums and networks

You are here: [Royal College of Nursing](#) / [Get Involved](#) / Forums and networks

Forums and networks are groups of RCN members who work or have an interest in a particular area of professional nursing practice.

All forums provide you with the opportunity to keep up-to-date with development in your field, contribute in consultations, network with your peers and explore career development opportunities.



can join more than one forum, but have to nominate one as your first choice, as this can impact on the power of a forum by influencing its voting rights at RCN Congress.



Advice team – you will never be alone when you need us

The RCN Advice Centre (RCND) offers RCN members a seven-day a week information and advice service, via telephone and online.

We provide support and information on a wide range of issues, including advice on legal, employment relations and nursing practice issues.

Our online advice covers a broad range of employment, legal and professional issues and is available at: rcn.org.uk/get-help.

Our team of advisers have a diverse mix of expertise, which enables them to provide quality advice and support to members who often face complex legal, employment relations and nursing practice issues.



Raising concerns

- Introduction
- Why raise concerns?
- Types of concerns
- How to report
- What to expect
- Manager's responsibilities
- What if it is unresolved?
- Pressure not to report
- Further help

Introduction

Raising a concern is not always easy but it is the right thing to do. It is about safeguarding and protecting, as well as learning from a situation and making improvements.

This guide is to help nurses, nursing associates, students and health care support workers based in the NHS and independent sector.

It includes a decision making tree to help nursing staff and students decide whether to raise a concern and when to escalate a concern.



Definition of +
raising
concerns

Definition of +
escalation

RCN +
decision tree
- when and how
to report



References

[Raising concerns | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)

[Nursing Workforce Standards | Professional Development | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)

[Definition and Principles of Nursing | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)

[RCN Learn | Royal College of Nursing](#)

[Newly Registered Nurses Network | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)

[Defence Nursing Forum | Royal College of Nursing \(rcn.org.uk\)](#)

[Get help and advice from the RCN | Royal College of Nursing](#)