

Midwifery at the RCN:

supporting midwives,
student midwives and
maternity support workers



Royal College
of Nursing

If you are a midwife,

**student midwife or maternity
support worker you can join the
largest specialist nursing body and
trade union in the UK.**

By joining the Royal College of Nursing
you will have access to a whole range
of support and resources to help with
your professional development.

Midwifery and the RCN

As a professional body for nurses, midwives, maternity support workers (MSW) and health care support workers we understand your role.

We campaign on your behalf to safeguard your interests. This includes lobbying governments to ensure that your views are heard where and when it counts, advising on and developing guidelines and government policy, undertaking cases to improve the working conditions for health care staff; and campaigning on issues to raise the profile of midwives, nurses, women's health and the wider health care community.

The RCN is also a member of the global organisation, International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). The ICM's philosophy is centred on education, regulation and association. Its vision is to promote autonomous midwives as the most appropriate care givers for child-bearing women, and to keep birth safe and normal. Through the RCN's membership we can share best practice, influence the future of midwifery and address global challenges and issues facing midwifery and midwives.



Maternity support workers can also join the RCN.

They support the midwife, providing safe, high-quality care for mothers and new born babies across the UK.

Student membership for just £10

If you are on a shortened programme, and already a nurse, you can remain with the RCN during training and once qualified as a midwife.

If you are currently studying to become a midwife, RCN membership can provide you with invaluable resources to assist with your studies and help you embark on your career in midwifery.



Promoting learning and development

As a member of the RCN you can access a number of resources and opportunities to help with your continuing professional development.

Whether you need quick and easy access to the latest clinical guidance on key topics, want details of the range of awards and scholarships open to members or simply wish to discover what's new.

 rcn.org.uk

Midwifery forum

The midwifery forum is part of the member-focused activities of the RCN. We currently have 41 forums and networks, which are formed of members working in a similar specialty or with similar interests.

By joining, you will be able to connect with other members to help shape and influence policy and practice. The forum is also key in providing an expert resource to the RCN. You may also be interested in our Women's Health, Fertility Nursing or Public Health forums.

 rcn.org.uk/midwifery
 @RCNMidwives
 @RCNMidwives

Conferences, events, courses and publications

Each year we organise a UK-wide programme of professional conferences and events that can be used as a contribution towards continuing your professional development, keep you up to date and help you network with colleagues.

Many of these are available to members at a discounted rate. Our largest event is RCN Congress, the largest nursing conference and exhibition in the UK.

 rcn.org.uk/events

We believe that those within health and social care play a pivotal role in shaping the future of services.

To enhance members' political, clinical and leadership skills, we provide a variety of learning programmes, plus professional development opportunities for RCN activists.

The RCN produces a growing array of publications to develop practice and improve patient care. They can be downloaded free of charge from the RCN website.

 rcn.org.uk/publications



RCN Library and Archive Services

Discounts

Members of the RCN are eligible for discounted rates on specialist journals produced by RCNi, including *Nursing Standard*.

To keep you up to date, you will also receive the *RCN Bulletin* quarterly.

The RCN Library and Archive Services is Europe's largest nursing library, with a wealth of print and e-resources. You can visit us in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London, or access books and journals online and by post.

We have over 1,100 e-journals, including the British Journal of Midwifery, MIDIRS Midwifery Digest and Midwives, along with around 20,000 e-books. You will also have access to a number of databases, including Maternity and Infant Care (formerly known as MIDIRS). All of these services are free to RCN members. In addition, our specialist staff can assist you by email, telephone and webchat – from simple queries to training and complex literature searches.

 rcn.org.uk/library

In addition to our library services we use new and creative ways of sharing knowledge through physical and virtual exhibitions, seminars, displays and events and we host several free exhibitions per year.

 rcn.org.uk/whatson

Revalidation

In order to revalidate with the NMC, you will need to meet a range of revalidation requirements designed to show that you are keeping up to date and actively maintaining your fitness to practise. Information about revalidation and building a portfolio is available at rcn.org.uk/revalidation



Providing support

Help in the workplace

Our team of fully trained advisers at RCN Direct offer comprehensive support and information on an array of legal, employment relations and practice issues. You can contact the service between 8.30am-8.30pm every day of the year. Help is also available online, giving you access to advice and guidance 24 hours a day.

 rcn.org.uk/get-help or 0345 772 6100

Every day all across the UK our members receive further help and support from our RCN officer teams and RCN representatives in workplaces – including learning reps, safety reps and stewards. They work together, providing personal support to members when they need it most.

Members needing advice or facing difficulty at work can receive vital support and advocacy from local RCN representatives and/or their local RCN officer team, who can be contacted via RCN Direct or local links in their workplace.

Legal services

No one wants to think that things will go wrong in the workplace, but if they do, you can rest assured that as a member of the RCN you are entitled to expert representation and specialist legal protection.

We have the largest in-house legal team of any union in the UK and offer the most comprehensive service possible – from

initial enquiry to the resolution of your case, we will be there to support you.

For members with more serious difficulties, expert employment and legal rights specialists are on hand and cover a range of areas including:

- employment law representation
- regulatory law representation with cases relating to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), including DBS certificate challenges
- criminal referrals
- inquests
- personal injury, including non-workplace accidents
- plus, a free 30-minute legal advice session for you and your family on matters not connected with work.

We also offer an indemnity scheme* that provides cover for clinical negligence claims. This cover extends worldwide (except for the USA and Canada) and is worth up to £3million for each claim. It means you have peace of mind if you take part in education placements, or voluntary, good Samaritan or charitable nursing work.

The scheme covers you if you are self-employed – with certain exceptions. For employed members, the cover is not needed for work undertaken as part of their contract of employment – because the employer is liable.

 rcn.org.uk/indemnity

RCN Law can support you with a personal injury claim, and provide advice on wills and probate.

 rcn.org.uk/get-help/legal-help



RCN Member Support Services (MSS)

Member Support Services consists of careers, counselling, immigration, welfare, peer support and Lamplight Support services.

To make an appointment, call RCN Direct on 0345 772 6100, open 8.30am-8.30pm, seven days a week.

Counselling

We provide confidential telephone counselling for work-related issues and personal problems. Through brief therapy, our counsellors can help you with issues ranging from stress and anxiety and bereavement/loss to work/life balance and coping and self-care strategies.

 rcn.org.uk/counselling

Careers

We offer a wide range of helpful resources online. From advice on CV writing and interview skills with sample questions, to top tips for preparing for your first job. For those members who need additional guidance, we offer one-to-one telephone careers coaching.

 rcn.org.uk/careers

Welfare

We provide FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) regulated money advice for RCN members who may be struggling with their finances. This might be related to mortgage arrears, struggling to meet credit card or loan payments, or an overpayment of wages. We also offer a benefits service for members who are wishing to appeal a Department for Work and Pensions benefits decision.

 rcn.org.uk/welfare-service

Immigration advice

If you are a non-UK national working in the UK as a nurse, midwife or nursing support worker, the RCN Immigration Advice Service provides free, confidential advice and representation on a wide variety of issues, including work and family visas, confirmation of EU rights, permanent settlement and citizenship.

 rcn.org.uk/immigration

Peer support

The service brings together members experiencing ill health or disability issues. All members are welcome to join to give and receive support by telephone and/or email. Information about how we are working with members to promote a positive approach towards health care professionals, who are disabled, is available on our website.

 rcn.org.uk/peersupport

Lamplight support

This service supports nurses, midwives and nursing support workers experiencing challenging financial circumstances. It includes a welfare benefits check, income maximisation and, in some cases, a financial grant from the RCN Foundation.

 rcn.org.uk/lamplight

RCNXtra

Whether you want to save or spoil yourself for less, RCNXtra lets you be savvy with your spending.

We've teamed up with 3,000 of the UK's top retailers to bring you great deals on everything from discounted family days out, to money off the weekly shop and better deals on your utility bills.

 rcn.org.uk/xtra



Join today

Midwives join the RCN because they appreciate the unique opportunities available to network and collaborate with colleagues, in aspects of women's, neonatal and infant health care.

As part of the wider midwifery and nursing family, the RCN welcomes membership from a wide and diverse workforce. So, if you're a maternity support worker (MSW) you can join too as a health practitioner member, and at a reduced rate.

If you are a student midwife on a three-year programme, you can benefit from a significantly reduced subscription rate, which provides you with our comprehensive range of benefits and excellent learning resources.

If you have not previously been a member of the RCN, or you are undertaking the 78-week midwifery programme, you can also receive a discount on the subscription rate for your first year.

Joining the RCN is easy.

You can join online at rcn.org.uk/join or scan the QR code. For more information about joining go to rcn.org.uk/membership



RCN Foundation

The RCN Foundation is an independent registered charity that supports nursing and midwifery to improve the health and wellbeing of the public. Through benevolent funding it provides one-off grants to help members of the nursing and midwifery community, (past and present) facing financial difficulties get back on their feet.

For further information, please visit rcnfoundation.org.uk

Associate membership

If you are a member of the RCN, you can also join the Royal College of Midwives as a joint member.

You should contact the RCM directly to discuss this option. Alternatively, if you are a member of the Royal College of Midwives you can join the RCN as a joint member.

This means that you would have access to many of the benefits of a full member, but at a reduced cost. If you choose joint membership, the indemnity cover and legal representation will be provided by whichever organisation to which the full membership subscription is paid. Call RCN Direct on **0345 772 6100** for further information on joint membership.

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009 858 | July 2021

