

Midwifery at the RCN:

supporting midwives,
student midwives and
maternity support workers



Royal College
of Nursing

**If you're 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 (RCN) you will have access to a whole range of support and resources to help with your professional development.



Midwifery and the RCN

**Student membership
for just 84p per month**

As a professional body for nurses, midwives, nursing associates, maternity support workers 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.**

**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.**

**To fully appreciate the
midwifery support,
networking and
expertise that the RCN
offers please join the
RCN Midwifery Forum
– the forum is run by
midwife members
for members.**



Promoting learning and development

As a member of the RCN, you can gain skills and knowledge to support your studies and career development.

RCN Learn provides you with expert quality-assured, evidence-based learning resources across a range of clinical topics from online guides and toolkits to podcasts, videos and blended learning courses.

 rcnlearn.rcn.org.uk

Midwifery forum

The midwifery forum is part of the member-focused activities of the RCN. We currently have a range of 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 midwifery 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-forum

 [@RCNMidwives](https://twitter.com/RCNMidwives)

 [@RCNMidwives](https://facebook.com/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 Service



The RCN Library and Archive Service 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 2,700 e-journals, including the British Journal of Midwifery, MIDIRS Midwifery Digest and Midwifery Matters, along with over 15,000 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 at RCN Direct offer advice and support with employment, legal and professional issues every day of the year.

We also offer a statement checking service. Whether you're employed by the NHS or independent health and social care sector, an agency worker, self-employed or a student member, we can help.

By expanding the advice we offer online and introducing our virtual assistant, you can often find everything you need on our website.

 rcn.org.uk/get-help

If you need to contact us, there are more options than ever before.

 rcn.org.uk/contact-advice

Every day, our members receive further support from the local teams of officers and representatives – including learning reps, safety reps and stewards. They work together providing personal support when you need it most.

If you need local support you can contact your local team via RCN Direct or local links in your 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 have access to the largest in-house legal team of any union in the UK.

We have expert employment and legal rights specialists who can help you with:

- employment law
- referrals to the NMC
- issues with a criminal records check or DBS barring investigations
- inquests.

In addition, we can signpost you to specialist legal assistance for the following matters:

- criminal referrals
- personal injury, including non-workplace accidents*
- 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 £3m 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 and peer support. To make an appointment visit

rcn.org.uk/Get-Help/Contact-advice

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

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 with lived experience of disability and neurodivergence. Join by completing our online form. Speak to other health care professionals with similar experiences by phone, email and in our closed Facebook group. The group co-designs resources promoting the benefits of a diverse nursing workforce including those who have disabilities and who are neurodivergent. A separate group also offers support to members with long COVID.

rcn.org.uk/peersupport

Welfare

The RCN Welfare Service provides a comprehensive casework service delivered by fully trained, experienced staff covering all welfare benefit matters including:

- advice on disability and ill health benefits
- challenging benefit decisions
- assisting with benefits appeals
- online benefit eligibility calculators
- financial wellbeing resources including signposting to additional sources of funding if in financial difficulty
- assisting with repayment negotiations for overpaid benefits and wages
- negotiating payment of rental arrears.

rcn.org.uk/welfare-service

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

Discounts

RCN membership brings you exclusive offers on a wide range of financial, insurance and legal services, including a will writing service. View all our offers and discounts to help you with life outside of work.

rcn.org.uk/Member-discounts

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 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.org.uk/join
0345 772 6100
f @thercn

RCN Foundation

The RCN Foundation is an independent charity that supports and strengthens nursing and midwifery to improve the health and wellbeing of the public.

The Foundation offers one-off hardship grants to midwifery staff through the Benevolent Service, and they can offer bespoke debt advice and support.

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.

Contact the RCN Advice Team at rcn.org.uk/Get-Help/Online-advice-form for further information on joint membership.

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