

## **Official statement from the UK Career Framework for stroke nurses project group**

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has approved funding to support the development of a UK career framework for stroke nurses; relevant to other healthcare professionals. This framework aims to support the development of a robust stroke nursing workforce, as well as attract and retain nurses. The UK Career Framework for Stroke Nurses will be fundamental to addressing the challenges of the rise in the number of people having a stroke, and people surviving stroke to live with disability. Addressing these challenges requires a workforce that is equipped with the right knowledge and skills (eg. in stroke prevention, acute management, rehabilitation, leadership, innovation, research and evidence-based care). The UK Career Framework for Stroke Nurses, and its dissemination to the nursing workforce, managers and clinical leads for stroke, will support a reduction in inconsistency between roles, and knowledge and skills, within stroke nursing.

The UK Career Framework for Stroke Nurses will complement the Stroke-Specific Education Framework (SSEF), advanced clinical practice frameworks in the UK and other relevant RCN career frameworks. The project has three main streams:

1 - Map a UK career pathway and framework for stroke nurses in line with the SSEF, advanced clinical practice frameworks and RCN career pathways

2 – Complement the SSEF’s knowledge and skills and its Elements of Care, with Professional Practice elements

3 – Ensure UK wide adoption of the UK Career Framework for Stroke Nurses

The SSEF, developed in response to the National Stroke Strategy (2007) covers the whole of the stroke care pathway. It consists of 16 Elements of Care that were mapped to the stroke strategies across the UK. This project will complement the SSEF, by the development of an additional 4 Professional Practice elements. The addition of these elements will assist in the description of a career pathway for stroke nurses using a format developed by the RCN for other disease-specific career frameworks.

The project, led by the RCN Neuroscience Forum will have the following group membership:

- Amanda Cheesley, RCN Professional Lead for Long Term Conditions and End of Life Care
- Ismalia de Sousa - Clinical nurse specialist in stroke at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust; RCN Neuroscience Forum Steering Committee member; Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party group representative
- Dr Sue Woodward – Lecturer, King’s College London; RCN Neuroscience Forum (Chair)
- Dr Liz Lightbody - Reader in Health Services Research, UCLan, National Stroke Nursing Forum (Chair)
- Sandra Aitcheson – Nurse consultant for Older People, Northern Ireland Stroke Nurse Network representative
- Linda Campbell - Scottish Stroke Nurses Forum
- Kylie Crook - Stroke Specialist nurse, Welsh Stroke Nurse Forum
- Professor Dame Caroline Watkins – Professor of Stroke & Older People’s Care, University of Central Lancashire (UCLan); UK Stroke Forum and host of the Stroke-Specific Education Framework (Chair)
- Colette Miller - Research Associate, UCLan; Stroke-Specific Education Framework

- Claire Fullbrook-Scanlon - Stroke nurse and AHP consultant group
- Beverley Harden - Health Education England
- Dr Kathryn Jones - Health Education England

Project Reference Groups:

The programme group membership will seek the views of a UK RCN reference group including:

- RCN Professional Leads
- RCN Professional Nursing Committee
- RCN Forums
- RCN Heads of Professional Development
- RCN Directors in the UK

In addition, we recognise the importance of key members within the stroke workforce and the wider nursing workforce such as:

- Professor Alison Leary – Professor of Healthcare and Workforce Modelling, London South Bank University
- Dr Gill Cluckie - Stroke nurse consultant, St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party group representative
- Louise Johnson – Consultant Therapist in Stroke/Neuro rehab, The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals
- Louise Ward – Clinical Stroke Project Manager, East Kent Hospitals University Hospitals Foundation Trust

A wider stakeholder engagement is planned for June/July 2019. Launch is planned for December 2019.

We recognise that excellent examples of nursing practice and local development pathways for stroke nurses exist in the UK and we will be keen to hear from those who have lead/are leading these. If you would like to get in touch please email [ismalia.desousa@nhs.net](mailto:ismalia.desousa@nhs.net).

On behalf of the UK Career Framework for Stroke Nurses Project Group

