

**Safeguarding Adults: Roles and competences for health care staff –
Intercollegiate Document.**

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Introduction

With a membership of over 425,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

The RCN welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. We have consulted with our members and staff. We have provided some general comments and have detailed specifics in the table below, as requested.

General Comments

The College was pleased to read the detail in this comprehensive document, particularly mechanisms for raising concerns and the inclusion of female genital mutilation.

Resources will need to be made available in order to fully sensitise the workforce into this arena of practice.

The College thought this document should be jointly owned with colleagues within social care as there is an obvious synergy in competencies. We also wished to ensure this document is made available to all healthcare providers.

Our respondents emphasised the role of clinical supervision within the document should be strengthened

We would like to offer the following links to RCN documents in support of this consultation;

Safeguarding –

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/safeguarding/adult>

Principles of Nursing Practice

<http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/principles>

Female Genital Mutilation

http://www.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/608914/RCNguidance_FGM_WEB2.pdf

Disclosure (Whistleblowing) guidance is also available.

Detailed comments below:

Chapter	Page Number	Paragraph on Page	Summary of amendment
2	4	3	The definition of abuse in relation to safeguarding is simplistic and does not reflect the nuances of the healthcare context.
2	4	5	The definition of advocate does not reflect the varied and mandated roles that sit under the broad title and have material differences.
2	4	6	We would like to suggest that safeguarding has a broader definition than that provided and can encompass all adults at different times through the life course
2	5	7	Good Standing requirements should also be stated for professions other than medicine, for example having no conditions on NMC register.

4	8	8	It would be helpful to have a national repository of the documents mentioned
5	14	Box 3 Attitudes and values	We would suggest this should include the desire to improve the circumstances of others and to share our values and insights in debrief situations.
5	15	1	Definition or guidance on what constitutes regular would be helpful.
5	20	Box 4	Teaching and education skills should be included at this level to disseminate learning knowledge, skills and attitudes. Skill in building research and audit evidence should be included
6	30	4 line 4	Please consider registered health or social worker.
Appendix 1	42	4	The leadership role should also include supporting service development within the organisation/health and social care economy

Contributors

Professional Leads from both Practice & Education
Older Peoples Forum Steering Group

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