

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.



Student membership for just £10

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.

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.



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.

 www.rcn.org.uk

Midwifery forum

The midwifery forum is part of the member-focused activities of the RCN. We currently have 35 forums, which are formed of members working in a similar speciality 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.



Visit www.rcn.org.uk/midwifery

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.

 www.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.

 www.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* every month.

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 30,000 e-books. You will also have access to a number of databases, including Maternity and Infant Care (formerly known as MIDIRS) and the definitive midwifery database. 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.



To find out more visit www.rcn.org.uk/library

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



www.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 www.rcn.org.uk/revalidation

Providing support

Help in the workplace

Our team of specialists at RCN Direct offer advice and guidance on an array of clinical and professional issues. Fully trained advisers are available to answer your queries from 8.30am to 8.30pm, 365 days a year.

This service is also available online so you can access advice on a range of employment and legal issues, as well as guidance on nursing practice, 24-hours a day. Fact sheets and self-help guides are also available to download.

📍 www.rcn.org.uk/get-help

Members needing advice or facing difficulty at work can receive vital local support and advocacy from local RCN representatives – including workplace stewards and those concerned with health and safety – who support the work of the RCN.

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

- employment law representation
- regulatory law representation
- criminal referrals
- inquests
- personal injury, including non-workplace accidents
- plus, a free 30-minute session for yourself and your family in regards to matters not connected with work.

We also offer you an indemnity scheme*, which provides cover for clinical negligence claims, so that you can be confident that you will never suffer a financial penalty. This cover extends worldwide (except for the USA and Canada) and is worth up to £3 million for each claim. It means you have peace of mind if you take part in education placements, voluntary or charitable nursing work.

It covers you if you are self employed – with certain exceptions. The indemnity scheme will cover you for providing antenatal care (excluding foetal ultrasound scanning), antenatal education and postnatal care.

For employed members, the cover is not needed for work undertaken as part of their contract of employment – because the employer is liable.

* For full details of our indemnity scheme - and any exclusions - please visit www.rcn.org.uk/indemnity

RCN Member Support Services (MSS)

Member Support Services consists of six constituent services: Careers Service, Counselling Service, Immigration Advice Service, Welfare Rights and Guidance Service, Lamplight Support Service and Peer Support.

The helpline for Member Support Services is open seven days a week, 8.30am-8.30pm – **0345 772 6100**

Careers Service

This offers a wide range of helpful online resources. 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 telephone careers coaching.

📍 www.rcn.org.uk/careers

Counselling Service

This service provides free, confidential, telephone counselling to help you deal with any challenging emotional issues that you may face. Through brief therapy our qualified counsellors can help you with:

- workplace problems such as bullying and harassment, managing your workload, formal proceedings and compassion fatigue
- personal issues such as relationship breakdown, domestic violence, bereavement, stress and depression
- looking at your circumstances from a different perspective, so that you can make changes to improve your situation
- identifying your own personal strengths and resources
- supporting you to develop and improve your own self-care strategies.

Immigration Advice Service

If you are a non-UK national working in the UK, 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.

Welfare Rights and Guidance Service

We provide FCA-regulated debt and money advice for members who are struggling with their finances. We can assist members with DWP benefits appeals, as well as issues related to mortgage and rental arrears and benefits or wages overpayments.

Peer Support Service

The peer support service brings together ill and disabled members. All members are welcome to join to give and receive support by telephone and/or email. Additionally members of the group contribute to guidance on ill health and disability issues.

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.

📍 www.rcn.org.uk/peersupport

RCNXtra

We've put together over 3,000 fantastic offers to help you save money on everything from your mobile phone bill and Sky TV package to fun days out with the family, trips to the cinema or your next holiday. You'll also be able to collect loyalty points, called WOWPoints, each time you shop using our RCNXtra scheme and redeem these against your future purchases.

With top retailers such as John Lewis, Debenhams, Expedia and trainline, there is something for everyone. Don't keep these great deals to yourself, you can invite your family and friends to join the scheme too.

📍 Visit www.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 www.rcn.org.uk/join or by calling RCN Direct on 0345 772 6100.

For more information about joining go to www.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 www.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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