

RCN Wales Study Centre Newsletter April 2026

Dear Colleague

Welcome to our April 2026 newsletter, featuring upcoming events and information about RCN resources we hope will be of interest to you in your continuing professional development and lifelong learning. We can also arrange bespoke learning for groups of 12 people or more – please contact us at CPDWales@rcn.org.uk for further details.

Follow us on a social media platforms and to support our campaigns, events and activities.



RCN Wales learning events

You can find details of all our upcoming learning events on our website at rcn.org.uk/wales-events

Strategies for promoting personal health and wellbeing webinar

Thursday 23 April 2026, 10am – 1pm (online)

Take care of yourself and your team! This webinar aims to promote the importance of health and wellbeing of self and the team, including identify sources of support available to you, and strategies you can use. Suitable for all members of the nursing and midwifery team, working in any sector. Book now at: <https://bit.ly/4afoX50>

Record Keeping webinar

Tuesday 9 June 2026, 9.30am – 12pm (online)

Essential knowledge for all the nursing team, this webinar aims to examine and explore best practice processes involved in record keeping, including all different types of records (both written and electronic) in health and social care; explore potential concerns around record keeping, aligned with accountability, responsibility and the standards required of you in practice; and enable a greater awareness of the resources available to support you in your practice. Book now at: <https://bit.ly/4kFYa5y>

Leadership in Action webinar

Thursday 8 July 2026, 9.30am – 12.30pm (online)

This interactive webinar focuses on the real-world skills needed to lead with integrity, support colleagues and contribute to safe, high-quality care. Whether you're new to leadership or looking to strengthen your professional voice, this session provides practical tools you can use immediately in your daily practice. Suitable for all roles in the nursing team, working in any sector. Bookings opening soon at rcn.org.uk/wales-events

Accountability and Delegation webinar

Tuesday 11 August 2026, 9.30am – 12.30pm (online)

Suitable for all members of the nursing team who are working in any sector, this webinar aims to highlight the general principles of accountability and delegation of duties.

Book now at: <https://bit.ly/4tXaQsQ>



Could you or your colleagues
be a winner?

Coming soon...

14 award categories recognising, highlighting and celebrating the dedication, innovation, and outstanding professional care of nursing staff across Wales

[Nominations open Spring 2026](#)

Upcoming webinar: Update on job evaluations and nursing profiles in Wales

Date and time: 14 April 2026, 5pm – 6pm

Full info and sign up:

[Update on job evaluations and nursing profiles in Wales | Royal College of Nursing](#)

Join this session to understand more about how to have your role valued fairly.

Job descriptions for nursing staff are often out of date or haven't kept up with the changes in the nursing profession.

Job evaluation is the process of evaluating the level of skill, knowledge and responsibility your role requires. It is open to all staff employed directly by the NHS.

In this session you'll hear about how to see your own value, understand job evaluation processes, get to ask questions. You'll leave with a better understanding of what to expect of job evaluation in Wales.

Wales Election 2026: Ask the Candidates

This May, Wales will elect a new Welsh Government. Do the people seeking your vote have a plan for nursing in Wales?

We are holding a joint Q&A with the British Medical Association Cymru, for the chance to put your questions to the health spokespeople from the main political parties in Wales. This is your chance to ask the main political parties in Wales how they will tackle the biggest issues in nursing and health.

Register now at the link below:

- [16 April 2026](#), 6pm – 7.30pm

When you invest in stronger nursing, you invest in a stronger nation.

We're ready to make sure our voices, and those of our patients and communities, are heard loud and clear.

- Read our manifesto in [English](#) and [Welsh](#)
- Get involved in the campaign at rcn.org.uk/StrongerNursing

2026 SENEDD ELECTION QUESTION TIME



 16 April  6pm  Online



Mabon ap Gwynfor
Plaid Cymru



Ian Chandler
Wales Green Party



James Evans
Reform UK Wales



Peter Fox
Welsh Conservatives



Calum Higgins
Welsh Labour



TBC
Welsh Liberal Democrats



rcn.org.uk/StrongerNursing

RCN Wales Roundtable for the Independent Sector - 'Advanced Practice in Independent Health and Social Care.'

Date: 30 April 2026 Time: 1pm – 3pm Venue: Online

RCN Wales will be hosting an online roundtable, on the theme 'Advanced Practice in Independent Health and Social Care'

This session will offer an opportunity to network with colleagues from across the independent sector, share experiences, and discuss your work within the Welsh context. The roundtable will be facilitated by Pam Penman, RCN Wales, Independent Sector and Community Adviser.

The theme is: 'Advanced Practice in Independent Health and Social Care'.

This event is open to members and non-members who are nursing staff working across the Independent Health and Social Care Sector in Wales.

To book your place and for further information about the roundtable events, please email: IndependentSectorandCommunity@rcn.org.uk by 11am on Thursday 30 April 2026.

Get set for Congress 2026!

The highlight of the nursing calendar is back. Congress will take place on 18 – 21 May 2026, at the ACC in Liverpool.

[RCN Congress](#) is the ultimate opportunity to network, hear from exceptional keynote speakers and take part in vibrant debates about the issues affecting the nursing workforce. Plus, with an education and development programme, industry exhibition and buzzing Liverpool location, you're sure to leave Congress feeling energised and inspired.

➔ [Book your free place at Congress today](#)



Dive into the debates

Check out the important nursing topics we'll be [debating](#) at this year's Congress, from misinformation in health care to campaigning for a 35-hour working week.

Get set to debate with our 'Preparing for Congress' webinars:

- Finding and Evaluating Evidence and Critical Thinking
 - [28 April 2026, 10am – 11am](#)
- Criticality and Effective Presentation Skills
 - [1 May 2026, 11am – 12pm](#)

Sign up now for the RCN Wales Political Leadership Programme – 30 June and 1 July 2026

Get yourself invaluable insight into the Welsh political landscape and how health policy is shaped.

The [RCN Wales Political Leadership Programme](#) is a prestigious course where you can develop your influencing skills and expand your knowledge of how health and social care policy is made. 2-day programme, taking place in Cardiff. Designed specifically for nursing staff of all roles, but also suitable for those working in related fields of health and social care, both RCN members and non-members



Course fee: £400 + VAT per person.

Further details and book now at: rcn.org.uk/PLP



Interested in a particular nursing topic? Join a forum via [MyRCN](#)

- **Contribute to consultations**
- **Keep up to date with latest practice and developments**
- **Join forum discussions**

New publication: RCN Wales Priorities and Recommendations for Nursing Education and Lifelong Learning in Wales

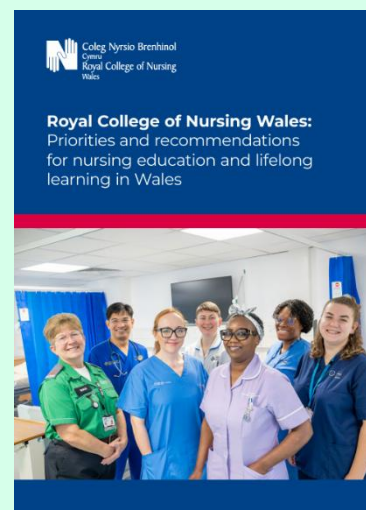
RCN Wales has launched its updated Priorities and Recommendations for Nursing Education and Lifelong Learning in Wales. The publication succeeds the 2016 RCN Wales Education Strategy.

It reflects the political, economic, digital, and workforce changes shaping nursing in Wales and outlines three strategic priorities to strengthen professional learning, embed research informed practice, and build a flexible and sustainable workforce to meet the growing complexity of population needs.

RCN Wales is urging Welsh Government, Health Education and Improvement Wales, higher education institutions, health boards, and social care partners to work together to implement these recommendations and strengthen the educational foundations of the nursing workforce.

Read the publication online:

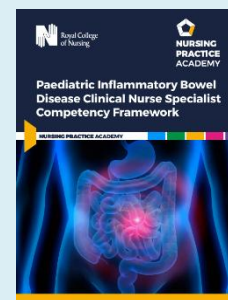
[Priorities and recommendations for nursing education and lifelong learning in Wales](#)



New professional development publications available:

[Paediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinical Nurse Specialist Competency Framework](#)

The number of children with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) has risen significantly over the years and the need for increased paediatric IBD clinical nurse specialists has risen too. As a result of the increase in posts many nurses are new to the field, lone workers or establishing new services within existing gastroenterology departments. The purpose of these competencies is to formalise the standards for paediatric nurses working in different roles related to IBD and provide a solid foundation that encompasses some of the challenges and complexities associated with working in paediatrics.



[Commitment to the Care of People living with Dementia – SPACE principles](#)

This guidance sets out the five principles that form a shared commitment to improving care for people with dementia and their families. Designed for both staff and managers, it can be used in a wide range of health and social care settings and includes the most recent evidence and best practice.

[Bowel Care](#)

Bowel care is a fundamental area of patient care that is frequently overlooked, yet it is of paramount importance for the quality of life of patients. This edition includes updates on best practice and provides guidance for all nursing staff. It incorporates knowledge of bowel function and the essentials of assessment, treatment and management of lower bowel dysfunction. The publication promotes a positive and proactive approach to care delivery for the essential and fundamental needs of bowel function and management of bowel disorders.



The RCN produces a wide range of publications to develop practice and improve patient care. They can be downloaded free of charge from: rcn.org.uk/publications

Boost your knowledge and skills and gain academic credits with our new education programmes – RCN Wales is proud to be an Agored Centre

RCN Wales is a registered Agored Centre, enabling us to offer accredited, credit-bearing taught units that contribute to the ongoing professional development of health care support workers and registered nurses working across Wales.

These units are open to all nursing staff – not just RCN members – and have been designed to support professional growth, reflective practice, and leadership development across a range of roles.

Boost your knowledge and skills and find your next learning opportunity!

Find out more at rcn.org.uk/Agored

Our current offer includes the following programmes:

- ❖ **Compassionate Conversations** – 4 credits at Level 3 – (3-day course, 17, 24 and 30 September 2026) **BOOK NOW AT:** www.rcn.org.uk/wales-events
- ❖ **Advanced Leadership** – 20 credits at Level 7 – (10-day course, starting October 2026 – open for bookings soon!)
- ❖ **Compassionate Leadership** – 2 credits at Level 3 – next course Spring 2027
- ❖ **Professional Nurse Advocate** – 20 credits at Level 7 – next course Spring 2027

Register your interest to be kept informed when the next courses go live for bookings: rcn.org.uk/Agored

More resources from the RCN that can support your professional development:

- [Educational programmes and services](#)
- [Learning Resources](#) – Includes resources that are free to access for RCN members and provide an introduction to a growing range of nursing essentials. Includes [First Steps](#), [Introduction to Prehabilitation](#), [Caring for Emotionally Vulnerable People](#), [Skin Health Toolkit](#), and more!
- [RCN Learn](#) – including free resources
- [Learning Resources for the Nursing Support Worker workforce](#)
- [RCN Accredited events and resources](#) – clinical learning from external sources, which have been accredited by the RCN as meeting standards of excellence
- [RCN Endorsed resources](#) – clinical learning from external sources, which meet the RCN's

RCN Foundation webinar – “Nursing and midwifery employees' experiences of domestic abuse.”

Date and time: 20 April 2026, 1pm – 2.30pm

Join us online for a thought-provoking webinar to shed light on nursing employees' own experiences of domestic abuse and help us to turn knowledge into action.

Organised and hosted by the RCN Foundation, this free-to-attend, 90-minute event aims to create greater recognition of the issue, increase dialogue and deepen understanding of the domestic abuse experiences of nurses, midwives and healthcare support workers in the UK.

➤ [Find out more and book your free place](#)

RCN Foundation Education Grants now open – apply by 13 May!

Are you looking for funding to support your professional development?

RCN Foundation education grants are now open!

Grants range from £500-£2,500 and you don't need to be an RCN member to apply.

Applications close at 5pm on 13 May. For more info and to apply, follow the link:

[Education grants | RCN Foundation](#)



Funding Available

To support your continuous professional development

Apply by 5pm on 13 May 2026



Open to applications from nurses, midwives, nursing associates, maternity assistants, healthcare support workers and students. You don't need to be a member of the RCN to apply.

- **RCN Foundation Professional Bursary Scheme (PBS):** grants of up to £1,600 available for registered nurses, midwives, healthcare support workers, nursing associates and maternity assistants wishing to undertake a course or module to enhance their professional development
- **RCN Foundation Adult Social Care Nursing Fund:** grants of up to £1,600 for registered nurses, care and support workers/assistants working in adult social care settings and seeking development opportunities
- **RCN Foundation Next Generation Grant:** up to £1,000 available to support graduates wishing to become a nurse or midwife, and for direct entry nursing associate students undertaking a foundation degree. The grant will support with living costs whilst studying
- **RCN Foundation Marcia Mackie and Rae Bequest Grants:** eligible to nurses registered in the UK and working in Northern Ireland in any sector wanting to undertake a course or programme that will improve patient care and develop practice. Grants of up to £1,600 (Rae) and £1,000 (Marcia Mackie) are available
- **RCN Foundation Mair Scholarship:** open to nurses working in occupational health in Scotland only. Grants of up to £500 available for continuous professional development
- **RCN Foundation Kershaw Grant:** grants of up to £500 available for healthcare support workers seeking continuous professional development opportunities
- **RCN Foundation Monica Baly Grant:** open to nurses, midwives and student nurses or midwives for research projects or activities related to the history of nursing and midwifery. Funding of up to £2,500 available

RCN Events – April – some of the events and conferences coming up...

[Introduction to RCN Library Services](#)

14 April 2026, 12pm – 12.45pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[Men and Women's Health](#) – RCN GPN Forum webinar

16 April 2026, 1pm – 2pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[Lunch and learn: Huddles and debriefs](#)

20 April 2026, 12.30pm – 1.30pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[Missionaries and Migrants: A history of nursing and empire](#)

22 April 2026, 6pm – 7.30pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[The Art of Nursing: Many Different Kinds \(with Michael Rosen\)](#)

23 April 2026, 1pm – 2pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[Know how to search CINAHL](#)

23 April 2026, 2pm – 3.30pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[General practice nursing webinar: Influencing pay, terms and conditions in general practice](#)

23 April 2026, 3.30pm – 4.30pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[Launch: Equalities Organising Discussion Group](#)

23 April 2026, 6.30pm – 8pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

We are launching the equalities discussion groups to create shared spaces in which we learn how to organise and win on matters of equalities. We will explore: What is power? How do we create change? What does it mean to organise around equalities issues? How can we ensure that the RCNs new equalities networks will be impactful and effective?

['Let's Eat Grandma': the editing and proof-writing workshop with the Royal Literary Fund](#)

24 April 2026, 1pm – 3pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[Advancing Men's Health: Tackling Inequalities](#)

28 April 2026, 12.30pm – 2pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[Pain and Palliative Care Forum Member Engagement Webinar](#)

29 April 2026, 1pm – 2.30pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

RCN Events – April – May (cont.)

[When Cancer Diagnosis Is Delayed: Supporting Safer Diagnostic Practice for Advanced Nurse Practitioners](#)

29 April 2026, 6.30pm – 7.30pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[Introduction to Critical Appraisal](#)

30 April 2026, 10am – 11.45am (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[Starting to Write for Publication with the Royal Literary Fund](#)

5 May 2026, 10am – 12pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[Easy referencing ... in 45 minutes](#)

6 May 2026, 12pm – 12.45pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[Getting Started with Google Scholar](#)

7 May 2026, 10am – 10.30am (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[Masterclass: The Future of Nursing – What the State of the World's Nursing Report Means for Us](#)

7 May 2026, 5pm – 6.30pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[In Conversation with Nursing Pioneers: Migration and Health Inequalities](#)

12 May 2026, 5.30pm – 7pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to all, you do not have to be an RCN member to attend

[Introduction to RCN Library Services](#)

13 May 2026, 12pm – 12.45pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

[Stay up to date with online journals](#)

19 May 2026, 12pm – 12.45pm (online)

FREE – this event is open to RCN members only

Upcoming conferences in 2026 – save the dates and book now!

- [RCN Management and Leadership Forum Conference: Leading with scrutiny](#) – 29 April (in-person in London)
- [RCN Long-term Conditions Conference 2026](#) – 17 June (in-person in Sheffield)
- [RCN Neuroscience Forum Conference 2026](#) – 24 June (in-person in London)
- [RCN Acute Care Symposium 2026](#) – 8 July (in-person in London)
- [RCN International Nursing Research Conference 2026](#) – 15-17 September (in-person in Glasgow)
- [RCN Pain and Palliative Care Conference](#) – 22 September (in-person in London)
- [RCN and NaTHNaC 9th Joint Travel Health Conference 2026](#) – 26 September (online)
- [RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Conference 2026](#) – 2 October (in-person in London)
- [RCN Fertility Nursing Conference 2026](#) – 15 October (in-person in London)

Find out what's upcoming by visiting the [RCN events webpage](#)

Nursing Workforce Standards: Team Manager Workshops

This workshop for team managers will deepen your understanding of the RCN Nursing Workforce Standards and their practical application. These webinars can be attended by all, whether RCN members or not.

Why attend?

- You'll explore how the RCN Nursing Workforce Standards can serve as a benchmarking tool within your organisation and as a resource to support safe, effective patient care.
- Through practical guidance, you'll learn how to implement the Standards to empower staff, drive continuous improvement, and strengthen leadership practices.
- The session will also provide an excellent opportunity to connect with nurse leaders across the UK, share insights, and exchange best practices.

Workshop dates – available to book now!

- [16 April 2026](#), 9.30am – 12.30pm
- [14 May 2026](#), 9.30am – 12.30pm
- [14 July 2026](#), 9.30am – 12.30pm
- [13 August 2026](#), 9.30am – 12.30pm
- [15 September 2026](#), 9.30am – 12.30pm
- [15 October 2026](#), 9.30am – 12.30pm



Wellbeing events

These free events aim to connect with our creative skills, learn something new and meet fellow RCN members.

[Time to draw with oil pastels](#)

21 April 2026 – 5.30pm – 6.30pm (online)

This Time to Draw with oil pastels session is a fun, relaxed, and accessible workshop led by Yayen. Participants will be introduced to oil pastels as an expressive and intuitive medium, learning a range of simple techniques that encourage play, experimentation, and self-expression.

[Time to Write Poetry](#)

26 May 2026, 5.30pm – 6.30pm (online)

Join award-winning poet and nurse, Romalyn Ante, for a relaxed poetry workshop.



'RCNi Revalidation Portfolio in association with RCN Learn', a tool for registered nurses, midwives and nursing associates.

The RCNi Revalidation Portfolio tool enables you to record practice hours, collate continuing professional development (CPD) activity and compile feedback and reflections all in compliance with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)'s requirements. The tool is **free** for RCN Members and RCNi Plus subscribers.

[Access the RCNi Revalidation Portfolio tool here on RCN Learn](#) (membership login required)

Further Revalidation resources

Please find below useful links to resources supporting revalidation:

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/revalidation>

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/revalidation/>

RCN Wales Library

RCN Libraries are open to RCN members, pop in and see us for your learning needs, a chat, check email, meet friends, charge your phone, and do your printing.
We're open Monday to Friday in Cardiff, 9:00am-5:00pm.



Hello from our RCN Wales Librarian - Louise Wallace



Louise Wallace, who has over a decade of experience supporting healthcare professionals with research, study skills, and information services is our RCN Wales Librarian.

Whether you're looking for help with literature searches, referencing, or navigating library resources, Louise is here to support you. Feel free to reach out via email, phone, or drop by Ty Maeth for a chat.

Did you know that you can give us feedback and suggest books for our collection? Get in touch by email at wales.library@rcn.org.uk or online at [Feedback and book suggestions](#)


As always, our eBooks, eJournals and databases are available 24/7, and you can contact the library team by email any time. The [Support](#) section of the website also addresses several common queries.


The postal loan service is still available and dispatching books to members across Wales. You can use our [library catalogue](#) to search for books and journals, and once logged in, you can check your account online and renew books at any time.

The RCN have produced subject guides on a wide range of topics. Our selection includes guides on academic skills, leadership, and information to help you provide specialised care, no matter where you work. There is always something new to learn at: rcn.org.uk/library/subject-guides




Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time on wales.library@rcn.org.uk or 029 2068 0734

Healthcare students - join our next Journal Club!

 Health care students in Wales, this one is for you!

 Join our next journal club on **Wednesday 22 April** from 1-2pm, where we'll be discussing Artificial Intelligence and its use in nursing.

Just scan the QR code to the right to join the teams meeting and access the article that we'll be breaking down in the session.

	
JOURNAL CLUB	
WHO	WHEN
Healthcare students studying in Wales	Weds 22 nd April 2026 12-1pm
WHERE	WHAT TO EXPECT
Scan the QR code for article and Teams link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article or paper shared in advance • Guided discussion questions • Supportive, inclusive conversation • Interactive participation and networking amongst members • Discussion around the latest evidence, and critical appraisal skills • Moderated by academics
	

Make your voice heard and become more active in the RCN...

The voice of nursing needs to be heard.

Our power comes from our ability to stand together and demand what we need for our profession. [Find out how to get involved with your union](#) ↓

Become an RCN Rep

Reps are vital links between the RCN and our members. They are the RCN's ambassadors in the workplace, helping to influence policies, assist members and shape our profession. If you are an RCN member and a registered nurse or a health care assistant in employment, you can apply to become an RCN learning representative, safety representative or steward.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/rcn-reps>



Get Active locally with your RCN Branch!

Link in with your local RCN and connect with your branch to get your voice heard on local issues. As an RCN member, you can find out which branch you belong to by checking MyRCN.

Find out more about the branches in Wales here: [Branches | Wales | Royal College of Nursing](#)

Get involved with the RCN through our Activism Academy. The Activism Academy is here to empower you to win meaningful improvements and positive change in your workplaces and the nursing profession.



We want you to be part of nursing activism and lead on the issues that matter most to you. You are the RCN. By joining with other members, you can make nursing activism a force to be reckoned with! [Sign up for Activism News](#)

Student member? Get involved as an RCN Student Ambassador

Championing the student voice – this is a role for a nursing student who is passionate, who wants to make a difference, who has energy and enthusiasm and who is willing to become active with the RCN to make positive changes. The RCN Student Ambassador role is open to RCN members who are in the student member category.

We will support you to help you get involved in:

- Signposting and supporting your fellow students
- Connecting and campaigning
- Questioning and influencing



We'd love for you to be part of our community of over half a million members www.rcn.org.uk/joining for professional support and other benefits or call 0345 772 6100.