

## Press Release

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# Voluntary Standards for District Nursing endorsed

In 2015 the Queen's Nursing Institute and Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland jointly published new Voluntary Standards on District Nurse Education and Practice. The standards were launched at the QNI's annual conference in September 2015.

The standards were developed by the community nursing charities to update and enhance the relevant NMC standards, originally published in 1994.

These standards have now been officially endorsed by a number of voluntary, statutory and workforce organisations. The organisations that have so far endorsed the new standards are Health Education England, the Association of District Nurse Educators (ADNE), the Royal College of Nursing, CPHVA, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, and the National District Nursing Network.

Dr Crystal Oldman, QNI chief executive commented: 'We are delighted that so many influential organisations in healthcare have recognised the vital importance of the QNI/QNIS voluntary standards for District Nurse education and practice. The standards reflect a consensus view of the role of the District Nurse in the 21st century, which is fundamental to the delivery of excellent care in peoples' homes and communities: a shared purpose for all of the endorsing organisations.'

Clare Cable, QNIS chief executive commented: 'A huge amount of work went in to developing the voluntary standards, and these endorsements reinforce their usefulness as we shape the future of District Nursing across the four countries of the UK.'

Julie Bliss, Chair of ADNE said: 'The QNI/QNIS Voluntary Standards reflect developments in curricula and care delivery across the four countries. They provide a benchmark for district nurse education and practice supporting the ongoing development of district nurses who are able to manage and lead the complexity of care and teams in the community to deliver evidence based person-centered care.'

Lisa Bayliss-Pratt, Director of Nursing at Health Education England said: 'Community and primary care nursing services in England are at the very forefront of individualised services that need to be shaped by the voices of service users, carers and the public, in response to their health needs. That is why we welcome those standards, which represent a step forward in setting and establishing the standards that underpin the delivery of high-quality patient care.'

'Our District Nursing and General Practice Nursing Service career framework, published in November, set out the skills required to perform these important roles and in doing so will ensure that district and general practice nursing professionals are equipped to deliver health outcomes now and in the future.'

Gill Coverdale, Professional Lead for Education at the RCN, said: 'The very future of the NHS relies on moving care closer to home and district nurses are the lynch pin for empowering people to be cared for in their own homes and in the community.'

'There is overwhelming evidence that district nursing reduces costs in the long-term and provides more appropriate, patient-centred care. These new Voluntary Standards will support the development of a district nursing workforce with the education and training to make a significant difference to the lives of patients – and the NHS overall.'

David Pugh, Chair, National District Nursing Network said: 'As chair of the National District Nurse Network, I would like to give our full endorsement to the voluntary standards for District Nursing education and practice. The majority of our members are from provider organisations and I feel that the standards accurately reflect the role of the modern District Nurse whilst, at the same time, providing a framework for the future of District Nursing.'

Dee Sissons, Director of Nursing for Marie Curie, said: 'Marie Curie and District Nurses have a strong tradition of working together in communities across the UK, so we were really happy to be involved in developing and endorsing these standards. We recognise the pivotal role that District Nurses play in getting people timely access to the right care as they approach the end of life, keeping patient choice at the very heart of what they do.'

Jacqueline Goodchild, Workforce Programme Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support said: 'There are currently 2.5 million people living with cancer and while many are living longer with the disease, sadly this doesn't mean they are necessarily living well. People require high quality care to support them through treatment and beyond and District Nurses have a crucial part to play. Not only do they deliver vital care in peoples' homes and communities, such as administering pain relief or changing dressings, they are also key to co-ordinating a wide range of support such as access to therapy.'

'We want to make sure District Nurses are supported and recognised for the outstanding contribution they make to cancer care services, which makes such a difference to the lives of people affected by cancer. And that is why, forty years on from the introduction of the first Macmillan professional , we are delighted to have helped shape the QNI Voluntary Standards.'

The QNI and QNIS recommend that the new voluntary standards are adopted by all education providers currently offering the NMC approved Specialist Practice District Nurse programme in the UK.

The standards are available on the QNI website at [http://www.qni.org.uk/for\\_nurses/policy\\_and\\_practice/district\\_nurse\\_standards](http://www.qni.org.uk/for_nurses/policy_and_practice/district_nurse_standards) .

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