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TRAINING SYLLABUS
ROLL of NURSES
GENERAL Nursing

Revised 1977

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales

**Training Syllabus for Admission to
the Roll of Nurses
General Nursing**

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Name of pupil nurse.....

Training school.....

Date of entry to training.....

Index number

PREFACE

The Syllabus sets out in broad terms the subjects to be studied during training in preparation for admission to the general part of the Roll of Nurses, maintained by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The aim of the course is to develop competence in giving total patient care so that the enrolled nurse may take her place as a qualified member of the nursing service. The training does not, however, include preparation for undertaking the full responsibilities for assessment of patient need and the planning and evaluation of care for which a deeper level of study and practical training is required.

The Syllabus describes the subjects which will be studied and the practical skills which must be learned; although these are under three separate subject headings, they will be brought together in the study and in the practice of patient care. This learning will take place, for the most part, in the different areas of hospital care but the pupil nurse must also become aware of the importance of family and occupational background and be able to contribute to the patient's rehabilitation and maintenance of health.

Length of the Course

The period of training is normally 104 weeks, exclusive of sick leave and special leave.

The Curriculum

The curriculum will be designed to emphasise the importance of developing the attitudes to health care and nursing practice which are fundamental to a programme integrating the theoretical and practical aspects of nursing education and training. There should be an introductory course of 20 days (4 weeks) during which part of the time will be spent in the wards for supervised practice. Following this a programme of study days or half-days or single weeks of study linked with practical experiences should be arranged, making up a total of 30 days (6 weeks). Lectures from medical and other specialist staff are not compulsory; if any are arranged they should as far as possible take the form of clinical sessions in the ward.

The Examination

Pupil nurses will be made aware of their progress as the course progresses and will be required to pass practical tests and a written examination, in the form of a multiple choice objective test, prior to Enrolment.

SYLLABUS FOR ADMISSION TO THE GENERAL PART OF THE ROLL OF NURSES

I PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF NURSING INCLUDING FIRST AID

Introduction

Outline of the history of nursing as a background to the present day.

Outline of the Health Service.

The Health Area/District; hospital and community services and relationship with social services.

Personal qualities, beliefs and attitudes of the nurse.

Code of professional practice.

Relationship between the nurse, patients and relatives.

The place of the nurse in the hospital team, relationship with medical staff and other health workers.

General care of the ward unit

Plan of patients' day.

Organisation of ward routine.

Ventilation, heating and lighting.

Reduction of noise.

Cleanliness of the ward as it affects the safety and comfort of patients.

Prevention of spread of infection.

Care of linen, disposal of soiled and infected linen.

Storage and custody of drugs.

Storage and preparation of lotions and poisonous substances.

Care and use of equipment.

Care and storage of food.

Fire precautions.

General care of patients and nursing procedures

Reception, identification and admission of patients.

Reception of relatives.

Transfer and discharge of patients.

Recording of necessary particulars.

Care of patients' clothing and property.

Observing and reporting on the general condition and behaviour of patients.

Responsibility for the general cleanliness and hygiene of patients.

Bed and cot making with modification of method for special conditions.

Methods of warming the bed.

Moving and lifting patients, helping patients to get in and out of bed.

Relief of pressure and prevention of skin abrasions.

Care of patients confined to bed.
 Care of ambulant patients.
 Serving meals and feeding patients.
 Measuring and recording fluid intake and output.
 Taking and charting the temperature, pulse, respiration and blood pressure.
 Recording weight and height.
 Giving and receiving reports.
 Observing and reporting on sputum, vomit, urine and faeces.
 Disposal and/or disinfection of sputum, vomit, urine and faeces.
 Care of infested patients.
 Care of patients requiring isolation.
 Care of incontinent patients and prevention of incontinence.
 Care of patients in plaster or on traction.
 Care of unconscious patients.
 Care of paralysed patients.
 Care of the dying and of the bereaved.
 Last offices.
 Care of patients before and after anaesthesia.
 General pre- and post-operative nursing care.
 Principles of asepsis, sterilisation and disinfection.
 Aseptic technique.
 Conduct of surgical dressings and other sterile procedures.
 Methods of securing dressings.
 Methods of disposal of soiled dressings.
 Administration of oxygen and other inhalations.
 Intravenous, subcutaneous and other parenteral infusions.
 Artificial feeding.
 Gastric aspiration and washout.
 Preparation and administration of enemas and suppositories; passing of flatus tube, rectal washout.
 Catheterisation, irrigation and drainage of urinary bladder.
 Uses and application of heat, cold, medicated preparations.
 Care of patients with pyrexia and hypothermia.
 Principles and methods of treatment by baths and sponging.
 Special nursing procedures used in specialist clinical units, depending upon experience.

Human behaviour in relation to illness

Preparation of patients for coming to hospital as in-patients or out-patients.
 Effects on patients and their relatives of coming to hospital.
 The nurse-patient relationship.
 The nurse-relative relationship.
 Visiting of patients in hospital.
 Family participation in care.
 Relationship between emotional states and physical conditions.
 Death and bereavement.

Administration and storage of drugs
 Requirements under current legislation.
 Weights and measures.
 Rules for the storage of drugs.
 Rules for and methods of administration of drugs.

Tests and investigations

Collection of specimens of sputum, vomit, urine, faeces and discharges.
 Urine testing.
 Preparation and care of patients and preparation of apparatus for:—
 examination of ear, eye, nose, mouth, throat; of respiratory, alimentary, urinary and genital tracts; neurological examination; X-ray examinations.

Nursing care in the operating theatre

Observation and care of patients during anaesthesia and immediate after-care.
 Safe care of the patients in the operating theatre.

First aid and treatment in emergencies

Aims and principles of first aid treatment.
 Improvisation of equipment.
 Methods of moving and carrying injured persons.
 Resuscitation.
 Haemorrhage.
 Shock.
 Asphyxia.
 Fractures.
 Bites and stings.
 Burns and scalds.
 Poisoning.
 Fits.
 Emergencies, e.g. fire and accidents in the ward.

II. THE STUDY OF MAN AND HIS ENVIRONMENT

The individual, his development and his relationship with the family and other people.
 An elementary knowledge of the human body and its functions.
 The basis of health, its promotion and maintenance; personnel contributing to the maintenance of health and the co-ordination between the health care and other services.

III. CAUSES OF ILL-HEALTH : THE COURSE OF COMMON ILLNESSES ; NURSING CARE AND TREATMENT OF SICK PEOPLE

Causes of disease.

Symptoms, signs and methods of investigation.

The course and treatment of common acute and long-term illness.

Nursing care, based on the sequence of the Nursing Process :—

Observation of the patient and his total environment.

Assessment of need.

Making a plan of care.

Giving care.

Evaluation of care.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES REQUIRED FOR THE TRAINING OF NURSES FOR ADMISSION TO THE GENERAL PART OF THE ROLL

Definition of the overall aims and the learning objectives for each part of the course

There is need to define the expected outcomes of the course together with learning objectives for each experience. The common core of the curriculum may be based upon the sequence of the nursing process and, whilst the intention should be to develop in the pupil nurse a high quality of competence in giving care, the training does not prepare the enrolled nurse for the full responsibilities for planning and evaluating care which usually depend upon a deeper knowledge than is offered in this course.

Practical experiences

The majority of experiences will be gained in hospital, but any opportunity should be taken to include some aspects of community care, preferably by incorporating suitable placements within a unit of experience.

In selecting the areas for inclusion and building these up into a curriculum it should be possible to ensure that pupil nurses have the opportunity to learn the following aspects of care :—

Initial care in illness ; planned and emergency admission to hospital.

High and medium dependency care.

Preparation for self-care, following discharge from hospital.

Continuing care for patients with long-term disability or recurrent illness necessitating re-admission to hospital.

Care of the dying and the bereaved.

The course should include experience of nursing people of varied age groups and the promotion of health and preventative care should be emphasised wherever relevant in all areas of practice.

Specific units of experience should be arranged as follows :—

Care of acute and long-term physically ill patients in 'medical' and 'surgical' wards, including accident/emergency nursing or operating theatre experience.	Child welfare and care of sick children.
	Welfare of elderly people and care of the elderly sick.

Night duty

The Council believes that experience of care at night is an integral part of training but since the total time for practical experience has been reduced by increased holiday allowances, the time spent on night duty should be :—

Minimum — 6 weeks (240 hours)

Maximum—16 weeks (640 hours)

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