

What is a nursing associate?

Nursing associate is a new nursing role in England that bridges the gap between health care support workers and nurses. They are trained to work with patients of all ages and in a variety of settings in health and social care.

Nursing associates training at the trust have been Health Care Assistants (HCA's) before starting the course, and, therefore have a very good understanding of the care needs for patients at QVH. Nursing associates deliver hands-on patient-centred care as part of the nursing team. This includes observations, medicine administration, ECG and wound care management, giving nurses time to manage more complex patient needs.

Nursing associates are subject to the same professional regulations as nurses. Including revalidation and fitness to practice. They work in all departments including Peanut ward, Canadian wing, Critical Care unit, Recovery unit, day case and outpatient areas.

Nursing associate NMC proficiency platforms

- Being an accountable professional
- Promote health and prevent ill health
- Providing and monitoring care
- Working in teams
- Improving safety and quality of care
- Contributing to integrated care

What does the training involve?

To enter the course you need the Care Certificate; a level 3 qualification in clinical healthcare support and functional skills level 2 or above in maths and English.

Training as a nursing associate is done through an apprenticeship programme, which means you earn as you learn. This approach has enabled staff to further their careers without having to leave employment and commit to full time education.

The qualification is a level 5 foundation degree, which is completed over a two-year period. This includes work-based learning, protected learning time and weekly attendance at university.

There are four external placements over the duration of the course. These include experience with caring for mental health, people with learning disabilities, children and adult patients in hospital, the community and home settings.

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Nursing associate role at QVH



A short guide to the new
professional role

Issue 1 – Ref 0025
Approved by the Patient Information Group
Print January 2020 – Review January 2023

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