



Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

Promoting and advancing UK Mental Health Nursing education, research, policy and practice
<http://mhnauk.swan.ac.uk>

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Prime Minister's Nursing and Care Quality Forum

Submission from Mental Health Nurse Academics (UK)

MHNAUK was formed in 2003 brings together representatives from all UK Higher Education Institutions engaged in mental health nursing education and research. The aims of the group include representing and promoting mental health nursing education, research and practice development, and actively participating in key national and international committees and working groups and to influence and respond to the UK mental health agenda. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Prime Minister's Nursing and Care Quality Forum.

The Forum's aim is to help all those involved in providing nursing and care, in all care settings, to:

- * deliver the fundamental elements of good care - compassion, dignity, respect and safety - first time, every time and to everyone; and
- * achieve their ambition of providing the very highest quality of care through supporting the adoption of best practice and promoting innovation.

In doing so, the Forum wants professional pride to be reignited and public confidence restored in the quality of nursing and care.

In order to achieve the above, MHNAUK suggests the following:

Nurse education

- Nursing workforce commissioners and employers work in close partnership with nurse and mental health nurse academics in UK HEIs to ensure priority is given to compassion, dignity, respect and safety both through university education and student clinical work placements.
- Ensure that compassion, dignity, respect and safety are central in nursing curricula.
- Ensure essential mental health nursing skills in developing, maintaining and ending effective therapeutic relationships are central to all nursing curricula.
- Involve patients/service users and carers throughout all aspects of nurse education from recruitment through teaching and learning to assessment.

Metrics

- Ensure that metrics being developed allow these things to be identified and captured so that the good news of compassionate, respectful care gets aired – metrics must not just focus on safety.
- Harness the patient/service user and carer voice to ensure that the definition of these elements does not rest solely with the professionals.

Workforce and environment

- Ensure adequate resources are provided, including reasonable staffing levels that allow time to be released to deliver this type of care and for staff to mentor, coach and develop students.
- Agree what is meant by best practice and assess on a regular basis the extent that this is being delivered.
- Ensure that the NMC hold people to account when re-registering that they have demonstrated best practice along the lines that the HPC does for example.
- Set a minimum standard of what is meant by innovation and ensure through regular assessment that this standard is being achieved, e.g. use some of the processes from the productive ward

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initiative but set dashboards around compassion, respect etc; that feedback to staff and patients how well a ward is doing on these issues

- Establish minimum standards for safe staffing levels in all clinical settings.
- Employ skilled ward administrators to take on tasks that allow nurses to nurse and supervise other staff.
- In Mental Health and some other healthcare settings, employ more Peer Support Workers and Carer Support Workers to work *alongside* nurses in the delivery of care.

Research

- Introduce a discrete research programme or an existing NIHR programme that aims to evaluate different methods of delivering these elements and to promote a strong evidence-base to underpin and develop best practice.

Creativity

- Engage and work alongside imaginative and creative people from the third sector and embrace new ways of improving services (e.g. Marion Janner and Star Wards).
- Employ appreciative enquiry techniques to bring out, develop and celebrate the best in nursing and quality care.

Members of Mental Health Nurse Academics UK would welcome the opportunity to provide more advice and evidence to support our suggestions if required.

Yours sincerely,

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