

Haemophilia Nurses Association

Interim Committee

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The Haemophilia Nurses Association (HNA) is a specialist group representing nurses involved in the care of people with bleeding disorders.

The HNA's role is to be the representative body for nurses involved in the treatment and care of bleeding disorder patients in the UK. The HNA provides nurses with peer support and the opportunity to share information and develop best practice in a formal setting.

The creation of a group for specialist nurses in haemophilia nursing, the Haemophilia Nurses Association (HNA) took place several decades ago and has proved to be innovative and influential. In the 1990's the group became a forum within the professional organisation of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). However, about two years ago internal changes to the Royal College of Nursing's structure of support and facilitation for such groups led to the merger of several specialist groups into an IV and Haematology Forum. This effectively led to the demise of the HNA as it proved impossible to maintain the identity, work and focus of the HNA within the new larger forum. This new larger forum has subsequently been disbanded by the RCN as they were unable to attract a quorate steering committee. There is strong opinion amongst our original HNA group, confirmed by survey, that an alternative organisational structure is required to ensure the continuation and further development of the HNA and to meet the professional needs of haemophilia nurses. It is important for the HNA to maintain its identity and independence as a group, but due to our small numbers it is essential for the HNA to be aligned to a larger group for the purposes of political influence and financial accounting. To this end we have, over the past year, been researching various possibilities. The outcome of this is that HNA will be affiliated under the umbrella of UKHCDO and this should be formalised by autumn 2011.

In the meantime an interim committee has been formed and an annual conference planned for November 2011. Two education courses for haemophilia nurses continue to be offered - Essentials of Haemophilia Care run by Martin Bedford via Canterbury University and a Masters module run by Vicky Vidler via Sheffield Hallam University. Haemophilia nurses continue to be represented on a national level at Haemophilia Alliance meetings, Industry Forum meetings and on-going multidisciplinary projects such as the Data Management Working Party, Triennial Audit, National FVIII contracting negotiations, Expert panels and the European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (EAHAD).

Angela Westoby
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