

Haemophilia Nurses Association



Committee elected 2012

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The Haemophilia Nursing Association (HNA) is the specialist group representing nurses involved in the care of people with bleeding disorders in the UK. Our affiliation with the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) ended in 2011 when the RCN proposed to merge the HNA into the IV and Haematology Nurses Forum, which was unable to meet the particular education and training needs of haemophilia nurses. HNA members voted to leave the RCN in 2011 and to become affiliated under the umbrella of the UKHCDO. We continue to work towards this goal.

Since the new committee has been in place, several work streams have been instituted. The first of these was to characterise the membership. We now have an active membership of over 120 nurses who care for patients with bleeding disorders within haemophilia centres and local hospitals in either a full-time or part-time capacity. Some of these nurses may only have limited contact with people with bleeding disorders and have identified particular educational needs to promote evidence-based care for patients.

The HNA continues to use Haemnet (www.haemnet.com) as our main means of communication. Haemnet offers both educational input and a secure social networking site, where questions can be posted about particular clinical scenarios. Over the past year, members have sought and shared views and information on the management of patients with inhibitors, the rationale for joint scores, anaphylaxis monitoring in babies with severe haemophilia B, bleeding ramifications with antidepressants and vaccinating against hepatitis in those treated with recombinant products.

Haemnet is also seeking to promote the development of research among nurses. A research working group has been established to take forward an earlier study into why haemophilia nurses do not engage in clinical research. (Khair et al, Haemophilia 2012). In addition, a working group is developing a link nurse project, designing customisable information for non-haemophilia nurses who may be caring for our patients. This project will result in further publications and presentations at national and international meetings.

There are two education courses aimed specifically at haemophilia nurses: The Essentials of Haemophilia Course at Christ Church University Canterbury and the Advances in Haemophilia Nursing masters module at Sheffield Hallam University continue to be popular, and the majority of haemophilia nurse specialists have now completed at least one of these courses.

HNA members continue to represent haemophilia nursing at national levels at the Haemophilia Alliance meetings, Industry Forum meetings, UKHCDO working parties, the Haemophilia Society, the European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders, the World Federation of Hemophilia and within the newly formed specialist commissioning groups.

The HNA committee is currently planning our next educational conference and AGM and hopes in the future to align these meetings more closely with those of the UKHCDO.

Kate Khair
Chair, Haemophilia Nurses Association
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