NURSE AWARDS

The search is on for RCN Nurse of the Year 2020

By Elaine Cole @prideinnursing

Could you be the Nurse of the Year in the year of the nurse? The search for the RCN Nurse of the Year 2020 has begun.

The RCNi Nurse Awards are an invitation to nurses, students and nursing support workers UK-wide to share their ideas and expertise while celebrating their contribution to making patient care better.

Entries are open to individuals and teams in 11 categories.

The awards will come at a time when the profession is in the global spotlight, with 2020 designated the international year of the nurse.

The RCN Nurse of the Year 2020 will be announced at an awards ceremony in London on 8 July, chosen from the category winners.

The 2019 winner, Taurai Matare, transformed her ophthalmology unit at Whipps Cross Hospital, London, by creating a one-stop eye centre, developing her nursing team and eradicating breeches of the four-hour waiting-time target.

She says: ‘I’ve done things I never would have dreamed of and had amazing opportunities to network nationally and internationally. When the prime minister Boris Johnson came to visit me for a one-to-one meeting, that was something else.’

The accolade has raised her profile at her trust, Barts Health, and further afield.

Award categories

» Advanced Nurse Practitioner
» Child Health
» Community
» Excellence in Cancer Research
» Innovations in Your Specialty
» Learning Disability
» Mental Health
» Nursing Support Worker
» Patient’s Choice
» Student Nurse
» Team of the Year

‘I now have a waiting list of nursing staff who want to join my team,’ she says. ‘When I won, I didn’t realise how big it was. I am being flown to Australia to speak at a conference and next year have an invitation to speak in Singapore.’

RCNi managing director Rachel Armitage said: ‘We hope nurses from all specialties and backgrounds will enter to help us shine a light on the outstanding care delivered day in and day out in challenging times.’

The deadline for entries is 17 January.

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IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Sepsis Six: update stresses need for early senior clinical assessment

The Sepsis Six screening tool has been updated to help nurses and other staff boost survival rates by recognising sepsis more quickly.

The tool is a set of six actions to complete within one hour of sepsis being suspected in patients over 12 years. It advises all clinical staff to ensure a senior clinician attends the patient, and places greater emphasis on ongoing monitoring.

Georgina Taylor, lecturer in adult nursing at University of Wolverhampton and UK Sepsis Trust clinical educator said the tool ‘empowers staff to ensure someone senior attends immediately’.

“We still give oxygen as appropriate, we obtain access and take bloods collectively now including blood cultures, lactate and routine bloods, we give IV antibiotics and IV fluids,” Ms Taylor said.

“We use NEWS 2 (national early warning score) to measure urine output and repeat lactate if it was initially elevated or if a patient’s clinical condition changes.”

Chief executive of the UK Sepsis Trust and Global Sepsis Alliance Ron Daniels said it was biggest change to the Sepsis Six since its introduction in 2006.

He explained: ‘The changes bring to the fore urgent assessment by a senior clinician – a health professional with the experience and clinical gestalt necessary to identify conditions that may mimic sepsis, coordinate care between disciplines, and plan and supervise ongoing care.’

Survival rates from sepsis have risen from around 70% in 2009 to 80% in 2019.

However, figures show that more than 250,000 people in the UK are affected by sepsis each year, of whom at least 52,000 will die.

rcni.com/sepsis-six-change