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# General Nurses in Specialist Settings

## How Do We Get Ophthalmic Nurses? The UK Perspective.

Stephen Craig. Senior Lecturer, Northumbria University. Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

# UK Nursing History

- 1844 – Florence Nightingale travels to Kaiserworth, Germany to train as a nurse.
  - She lasted 3 months
- 1854 – Travels to Scutari, Turkey as ‘Superintendent’.
- 1860 – Nightingale School of Nursing opens.
  - 15 hand picked students!
- 1860 - Nightingale publishes "Note on Nursing: What it is and what it is not"
  - Still in print today!

# UK Nursing History

- 1916 – (Royal) College of Nursing Founded.
- 1919 – Nursing Act passed (not law until 1923)
  - Nurse ‘Number One’ Miss Ethel Gordon Fenwick
  - General Nursing Council formed.
- 1948 – NHS founded.
- 1952 – Ophthalmic Nursing Board founded.

# The Briggs Report

- The Briggs Committee was established in 1970 to consider issues around the quality and nature of nurse training and the place of nursing within the NHS, rather than regulation.
- It reported in 1972 and recommended a number of changes to professional education. Almost as an afterthought, Briggs also recommended the replacement of the existing regulatory structure (involving nine separate bodies across the United Kingdom) with a unified central council and separate boards in each of the four countries with specific responsibility for education.
- Six years of debate and delay followed before the modified Briggs proposals formed the basis of the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979. This was due to the need to take account of devolution, treasury misgivings, lack of consensus within the professions [especially from midwives], and a lack of government will to find the parliamentary time to enact the legislation.

- The United Kingdom Central Council Founded (UKCC) (1982)
- The NMC Scope of Practice (1994)
- Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act (1997)
  - The title 'Nurse' is protected by law.
- The NHS Plan (2000)

# UK Nursing Change

- English National Board (ENB) abolished (2002)
- The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) succeeds UKCC (2002)
- The NMC Code of Professional Practice (2004)
- The NMC Code (2008)
- *So where do Ophthalmic Nurses come from?*

# Ophthalmic Nursing History

- 1952 - Ophthalmic Nursing Board founded.
- Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma (OND)
- Students could enter at 17yrs of age
  - 3 'O' levels, one of which one must be English.
- 18 months course.
  - 'Pre-Reg', Inclusive of 6 months reduction in SRN training or 12 months reduction in SEN training.
  - ONC available for SEN's



# How it was...1979

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THE OPHTHALMIC NURSING BOARD

Syllabus & Examination

Regulations

For

Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma &  
Proficiency Certificate

1979

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## SYLLABUS

### A OPHTHALMIC NURSING DIPLOMA

(For State Registered Nurses and Pre-Registration Students)

The syllabus aims to provide the learner with a sound and co-ordinated knowledge of the theory and practice of ophthalmic nursing. A basic knowledge of ophthalmology is required, sufficient to allow the learner an intelligent understanding of the nursing procedures.

The syllabus shall include the following:

#### Structure & Physiology

The Orbit – bones and surrounding structures

The Eyelids

The Lacrimal Apparatus – tear formation and drainage

The Extra-Ocular Muscles

The Conjunctiva

The Sclera

The Cornea

The Trabecular Meshwork and Canal of Schlemm

The Uveal Tract: Iris, Ciliary Body, Choroid

The Aqueous Humour – its secretion and drainage

The Lens; the Zonule; Accommodation; Presbyopia

The Vitreous Humour

Intra-Ocular Pressure

The Retina } adaptation to light and dark; form vision;

The Optic Nerve } visual acuity; monocular and binocular fields  
of vision; basics of colour vision; simultaneous

Visual Pathways } macular perception; fusion; stereopsis

The Cranial Nerves and Autonomic Nervous System

The Arteries and Veins of the Orbit and Face

# How it was.....

## Basic Optics

Light as a directed ray; reflection and refraction  
The role of Mirrors, Lenses, Prisms  
Emmetropia  
Refractive errors: Myopia, Hypermetropia, Astigmatism  
Spectacle lenses to correct refractive errors, presbyopia  
Contact Lenses  
Intra-Ocular Lenses

## Diseases and their Investigations and Treatment involving:

Lids and Lacrimal Apparatus  
Extra-Ocular Muscles  
Conjunctiva  
Sclera  
Cornea  
Uveal Tract  
Anterior Chamber Angle & Trabecular Meshwork  
Lens  
Vitreous  
Retina  
Optic Pathway  
Orbital Contents  
Ocular manifestations of systemic diseases

## Practical Nursing Experience

This will be gained in Adult and Children's Wards, Accident and Emergency and Out-patient Departments and Theatre to meet the requirements set out in the Record of Practical Instruction.

N.B. Those undertaking the pre-registration course will spend a period of training on night duty.

## Microbiology

Organisms found in and around the eye - pathogenic and commensal.  
Taking of specimens for investigation; culture media.

## Pharmacology

Drugs in current use in the treatment of ocular disease.  
The effects and possible side-effects of these drugs.  
Usual dosage, and routes of administration.  
Care and custody of drugs.

## Special Needs of the Ophthalmic Patient

Mobility; escorting the blind patient.  
Occupational Therapy.  
The role of the Medical Social Worker.  
Rehabilitation of the newly blind or partially-sighted patient.

## Lecture Requirements

The minimum number of lectures which should be given is as follows:

Structure & Physiology	}	24*
Diseases of the Eye		
Medical & Surgical Treatment		
Ophthalmic Nursing –	}	36
Theory and Practice		
Surgical Techniques –		
Major and Minor		
Pharmacology & Microbiology		4

\* At least half of these lectures should be given by Medical Staff (of consultant or registered specialist grade).

# How it was....

## B PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE

(For Nurses on the General Roll of the GNC)

Following the pattern set out for the Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma, basic instruction will be given in:

Structure & Physiology of the Eye and its Adnexa  
Elementary Optics  
The Investigations and Treatment of common Ocular Diseases  
Microbiology  
Pharmacology  
The Special Needs of the Ophthalmic Patient

### Practical Nursing Experience

This will be gained in adult and childrens wards, Accident and Emergency and Out-Patient Departments and Theatre to fulfil the requirements set out in the Record of Practical Instruction. A period of night duty is included in the training programme.

### Lecture Requirements

The minimum number of lectures which should be given is as follows:

Structure & Physiology	}	24*
Diseases of the Eye		
Medical & Surgical Treatment		
Ophthalmic Nursing –	}	36
Theory and Practice		
Surgical Techniques –	}	4
Major and Minor		
Pharmacology & Microbiology		

\* At least half of these lectures should be given by Medical Staff of consultant or registered specialist grade .

## EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

### Examination for the Ophthalmic Nursing Diploma

#### Part I

This is a written examination consisting of:

- i. Three questions set by medical members of the examination board.
- ii. Three questions set by nursing members of the examination board.

The candidate is required to answer two questions from each section. The time allowed for the written examination is two hours.

#### Part II

This is an oral and practical examination. It includes:

- i. Nursing procedures conducted by a nursing examiner for 30 minutes.
- ii. An oral examination conducted by a medical examiner for 15 minutes.

N.B. The Record of Practical Instruction must be available to the Examiners.

# Nurse Education -As Was



UNIVERSITY OF TEESSIDE

COLLEGE OF HEALTH

## TRANSCRIPT OF TRAINING



NAME: Stephen Alexander Craig

COMMENCEMENT DATE: 13 February 1983

COMPLETION DATE: 14 April 1986

LICENSE/REGISTRATION NO: Pin No: 83B0456E

	MINIMUM THEORETICAL INSTRUCTION IN HOURS	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN HOURS
Physical & Biological Sciences (Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, Microbiology, Nutrition)	112.50	0
Social Sciences/Management e.g. Psychology, Sociology, Health Promotion	112.50	0
Medical Nursing	75.00	1,687.50
Surgical Nursing (including Gynaecology)	75.00	1,657.50
Orthopaedic Nursing	75.00	337.50
Obstetric Nursing	75.00	262.50
Paediatric Nursing	75.00	225.00
Psychiatric Nursing	75.00	255.00
Accident & Emergency Nursing	67.50	165.00
Elderly Care Nursing (Geriatric)	67.50	262.50
Theatre/Anaesthetic	75.00	112.50
Community Nursing	67.50	75.00
Other Teaching Hours	112.50	0
<b>TOTAL (Hours)</b>	<b>1,065.00</b>	<b>5,040.00</b>

AUTHORISED SIGNATURE:

HOSPITAL SEAL OR STAMP:

UNIVERSITY OF TEESSIDE  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH

# Current UK Nurse Education

- Three years (minimum 4600 hours)
  - Northumbria University do 5200 hours
- Full or Part Time
- 50% Theory / 50% Practice
- Inter-professional and Shared Learning
- Joint Awards
- Learning in all settings – able to practice confidently in both hospital and community

**BSc(Hons) Nursing Studies \ Registered Nurse Program (Adult Nursing)**

**Semester One**

Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credits
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Year One	PR0400	Study Skills for Professional Practice	4	20
	PR0401	Foundations of Safe and Effective Practice	4	20
	NS0400	Fundamental Concepts in Nursing Care	4	20

Year Two	NS0500	Public Health in Contemporary Nursing	5	20
	NS0501	Applied Life Sciences	5	20
	AA0508	Developing Knowledge and Skills in Adult Nursing Care	5	20

Year Three	PR0600	Evidence Based Practice Project	6	30
	AA0608	Values and Principles for Nursing People in Later Life	6	20
	AA0609	Nursing Care of Adults with Complex Needs	6	20

**Key**

	All Pre Registration Health Studies Programs
	Program Specific Shared Modules Across Programs
	Field Specific Modules
	Generic Nursing Modules

**Semester Two**

Module Code	Module Title	Level	Credits
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NS0401	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology	4	20
NS0402	Care, Compassion and Communication within Nursing Practice	4	20
NS0403	Development of Fields within Nursing	4	20

PR0500	Evidence and Research for Professional Practice	5	20
PR0501	Developing Skills for Safe and Effective Practice	5	20
AA0509	Applying Knowledge and Skills in Adult Nursing Care	5	20

NS0600	Leading and Improving Nursing	6	20
NS0601	Preparation for Working Life	6	30

- Northumbria University's pre-registration nursing programmes have become the first in the country to be accredited by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).
- The accreditation covers all four fields of nursing: adult, child, mental health and learning disabilities at Bachelor and Masters level.
- In adult 'branches', we have 400 students / year, or 1200 over a three year period.

# Local Numbers

## Sunderland Hospitals

- 970 Beds
- Theatres - 2 Students
- Ward – 3 Students
- Twice a year – 10 total

## Newcastle Hospitals

- 1,800
- Theatres – 4 Students
- Ward – 4 Students
- Day Unit – 3 Students
- Twice a year - 22

Maximum in any one year is 32. Students cannot repeat a placement



# Issues

- Less than 100 out of 1200 students in a three year period access Ophthalmology.
- Curriculum is general and lacks a specific 'sensory' component.
- Financial constraints limit CPD
- Hospitals prefer 'in-house' informal training.
- No longer a recognised 'registerable qualification'

# Recommendations

- Review availability of Ophthalmology as a Learning Zone.
- Engage partner organisations in education in valuing Ophthalmology as a career in Nursing.
- Increase student placements to Ophthalmology.
- Promote Ophthalmic Nursing as a dynamic field of nursing, removing preconceived stereotypes.

# Nightingale Oath

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practise my profession faithfully.

I shall abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and shall not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.

I shall do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling.

I shall be loyal to my work and devoted towards the welfare of those committed to my care.