

Registered Ward Nurse (Stroke novice to expert)

National Stroke Nurse Working Group

This document is designed to provide a comprehensive summary of responsibilities relevant to the role of the Stroke Ward Nurse. It can be used to inform job descriptions and assist nurses with goal setting, career pathways and career progression in stroke nursing.

Core expertise: Registered Nurse

Key partnership with inter-disciplinary (IDT) members to promote a strong team culture

Location: The Stroke Ward Nurse works in a range of site sizes, geographical area and types of role

Date: 11 June 2015

1. Standard RN Practice		
Key accountabilities	<p>The Ward Nurse is involved in the following standard practice including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining a current professional development plan (2 – 3 year plan) - Teaching others (e.g. new nurses, in-service presentations) - Undertakes five days personal education / year (MECA) pro-rata inclusive of minimum 8 hours stroke specific education - PDRP (professional development and recognition programme) competent and proficient - De-escalation / violence intervention (VIP) training - Providing patients and family with education - Participating in stroke-specific audit and service development (optional) - Cultural competency including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nursing Council competencies o Understanding of risk factors - Ability to provide advocacy role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Patient advocacy around unique stroke issues (e.g. complex communication issues) 	
2. Stroke Specific and Maintenance Skills		
	<p>In addition to core nursing competencies the Ward Nurse (stroke) is expected to access skills training via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STARS (Stroke Training and Awareness Resources) http://www.strokecorecompetencies.org/node.asp?id=home 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E-stroke - http://www.estroke.com.au - Stroke nurse advancing competencies - http://www.strokeadvancingmodules.org/node.asp?id=home - Expertise in stroke specific assessment, evaluation, documentation and referral - Knowledge and understanding of stroke specific tools (mRS, FIM, NIHSS) - Awareness of and ability to educate patients / families / Whanau (brain injury, driving, primary/secondary prevention, co-morbidities) - Practice with an understanding of rehabilitation focus as part of the IDT (Interdisciplinary team) - Nurse dysphagia screening - Skills in neurological assessment including the Glasgow coma scale. 	
3. Work according to National / Local Guidelines		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to access and utilise (implement) national and local stroke guidelines, protocols, pathways. 	

Comments about this document may be addressed to the National Stroke Network Coordinator. Email: ginny.abernethy@stroke.org.nz