

Clinical support roles in pediatric and neonatal settings across Europe

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Postal survey

- **17** countries responded (March 2013)

Key areas:

- Whether there are such posts in paediatric and neonatal settings
- Roles and titles
- Tasks and procedures undertaken
- Education and training
- Recruitment and regulation

Clinical nursing support roles

- Healthcare/nursing assistants can work within hospital or community settings under the guidance of a qualified healthcare professional.
- The role can be very varied depending upon the area in which the person is employed. Working alongside qualified nurses, for example, they may sometimes be known as nursing auxiliaries or auxiliary nurses.
- Clinical support workers (sometimes known as therapy assistants or therapy helpers) work alongside allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, radiographers, podiatrists, speech and language therapists, dietitians and occupational therapists

Tasks and procedures

- **Such as washing and dressing feeding, helping people to mobilise, toileting, bed making, generally assisting with patients overall comfort, monitoring patients conditions by taking temperatures, pulse, respiration's and weight; preparing patients for their therapy, setting up equipment to use in the session/treatment, assisting the therapist in the treatment itself, contributing to record keeping**

Countries that have responded

- Austria
- Belgium
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Serbia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

Countries not responded

- Cyprus
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Macedonia
- Poland
- Romania
- Finland
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Luxemburg
- Slovakia
- Spain

Clinical nursing support roles?

In your country do you have clinical nursing support roles working in paediatric settings?

YES = 12

NO = 5

...in neonatal settings?

Yes = 12

No = 5

Role titles?

- 'Auxiliaire de puériculture' translates to 'auxiliary childcare/childcare assistant'
- *Hjelpepleier* (Certified Nurses Aid); *Barnepleier* (Certified Nurses Aid with additional training in newborn and children).
- FAGE stays for Fachangestellte Gesundheit, which means health assistant
- Health care assistant, health care support worker, assistant practitioner
- Nursing assistants and stretcher bearers
- Pflegehelferin / Pflegehelfer (Nursing assistant)
- Sygehjælpere = nursing auxiliary
- Social og sundhedsassistenter = social and health care assistant
- Medizinische Fachangestellte"

Clinical tasks and procedures undertaken

- They care for the child on a basic level supervised by a registered nurse, this includes hygiene and feeding. Feeding could include feeding by gastric tube, but the registered nurse is responsible
- breast feeding guidance
- newborn feeding and care. They are also trained to do tube feeding
- daily chores on the unit like keeping it tidy, serving food and drink
- taking and recording vital signs, temperatures and weight/height
- some have additional training and are certified to administer oral medications
- dressings

Roles formally regulated with a national register?

YES = 4 NO = 8 N/A = 5

Those countries that have in place include:

- **Denmark**
- **France**
- **Norway**
- **Switzerland**

Recruitment and selection of clinical nursing support roles

- In your country is there a specific system and process in place to check the suitability of applicants to work with babies, children and young people (including ensuring that individuals do not have a criminal record)?

Yes = 5 No = 8** N/A = 4

Countries that have in place include:

Denmark, France, Germany, Norway*, UK

*There is a system but not national requirement

** Due to come in in 2012 in some countries

Recruitment and selection of clinical nursing support roles

- In your country do organisations have a specific recruitment policy for employing staff in paediatric and neonatal areas?

Yes = 1 No = 12* N/A = 4

Countries that have in place include:

- **UK**

*Organisation by organisation basis; currently under discussion at national level in some countries

Education and training for roles?

- In your country do clinical nursing support roles working in paediatric and neonatal settings receive specific education and training for their role with babies, children and young people?

Yes = 8* No = 4** N/A = 5

Countries that have in place include:

- Belgium, France, Greece, Norway and Switzerland, Netherlands

* In Austria Berufsverband Kinderkrankenpflege have created a curriculum but not specified in law. In some countries such as Czech Republic this is generic and not specific to paediatrics/neonates.

**Dependent upon organisation in some countries

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