

Essentials of advanced hemophilia nursing

**Vicky
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During the early 1990s the UK Haemophilia Nurses Association (HNA) explored a variety of different avenues to offer specialist post-registration education to hemophilia nurses. Many of these nurses were practising at an advanced and partially autonomous level without the benefit of the formal education that other specialist nurses had access to. The lack of educational opportunities existed primarily because of the rare nature of hemophilia and the correspondingly small number of specialist nurses.

After much hard work and several thwarted initiatives the Essentials of Hemophilia Care was validated and delivered at two UK universities. This is a nationally recognised course and contains all of the elements required by the professional nursing organisations in the UK. Whilst the Essentials of Hemophilia Care course has met the present educational needs of hemophilia nurses the challenge is now to develop an educational tool that can provide the

educational framework to support the ever changing and evolving role of the hemophilia nurse specialist.

Preliminary discussion between the HNA and the Course Leader (Vicky Vidler) of one of the existing Essentials of Hemophilia Care courses has led to the belief that a course needs to be developed that acknowledges the advanced level that hemophilia nurse specialists practice at. This new course will be entitled “Essentials of Advanced Hemophilia Nursing Practice” and will incorporate all of the elements that form the core of the role of the hemophilia nurse specialist.

The course will be sub divided into 5 modules:

1. Diagnosis and treatment
2. Anatomy and musculo-skeletal examination
3. Inheritance and genetics
4. Treatment complications
5. Psychosocial issues

Different learning and teaching methods will be employed for each module and a formal process of assessment will be devised for each module and the complete course. It is intended to ensure that the structure and delivery of the course will be flexible and incorporate “e-enabled learning” and other innovative strategies. This will offer hemophilia nurse specialists the opportunity to undertake this course whilst continuing their existing work commitments. The Essentials of Advanced Hemophilia Nursing Practice will be submitted for validation and annual quality review to Sheffield Hallam University. It will be offered as a Masters Level course.

The development, validation

and delivery of this new course will require a significant amount of time and effort. If successful in our application for the Hemophilia Caregivers Education Award, the money will allow the employment of an additional nurse to assume some of the responsibilities of the current Course Leader who is also the Hemophilia Nurse Consultant at Sheffield Children’s Hospital.

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Sheffield Childrens Hospital
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