

## UK Alliance of Neurorehabilitation Nurses

*Ensuring the delivery of expert care*

"The nurse-patient relationship is very rewarding. You have a chance to get to know patients and you can see, sometimes dramatically, how much a patient has improved".

[www.in-pa.org.uk](http://www.in-pa.org.uk)

## Rehabilitation medicine is a specialist area

Rehabilitation medicine has changed substantially over the last 25 years, and there are now evidence-based standards and guidelines for clinical care and rehabilitation.

Neurorehabilitation is a complex process of assessment, treatment and management ensuring that the individual, and their family/carers, are supported to achieve their maximum potential for physical, cognitive, psychological and social participation in society and quality of living.

A multidisciplinary team (MDT) is responsible for designing and implementing an individual's rehabilitation care plan. The core team comprises rehabilitation medicine consultant/neurologist, nurse, physiotherapist, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, dietitian, psychologist, psychotherapist and social worker. All members of the MDT have specialist training in neurorehabilitation and work together to support and fulfil the individual's needs and goals.

## Sharing a common goal

Neurorehabilitation nurses share a common goal of ensuring the delivery of excellent care in both the private sector and the National Health Service.

As a valuable, key member of the MDT, a neurorehabilitation nurse encourages and supports the individual, often over a long time period as an in-patient, as they move towards as independent a lifestyle as possible. The 24 hour support and encouragement provided by a neurorehabilitation nurse, in close liaison with other MDT members, can also help the individual continue their rehabilitation programme beyond therapy sessions.

## UK Alliance of Neurorehabilitation Nurses – new forum

The Independent Neurological Providers Association (**INPA**) was increasingly concerned about the lack of neurorehabilitation nurses in the sector, and the need for rehabilitation-trained nurses to fulfil this important role.

In 2016, delegates at an **INPA** supported meeting of neurorehabilitation nurses and other allied health professionals, wholeheartedly agreed to establish an organisation dedicated to neurorehabilitation nurses. The UK Alliance of Neurorehabilitation Nurses (**UKANN**) was officially launched in June 2016 to represent neurorehabilitation nurses.

## Ensuring the delivering of excellent neurorehabilitation care

The **UKANN** provides neurorehabilitation nurses with a forum that can represent and unite them in the delivery of excellent care.

The organisation has three key goals. Firstly, it is imperative that nurses are attracted to this dynamic sector, and the **UKANN** is developing a campaign to facilitate awareness of this important role. Secondly, nurses need to be encouraged to train as neurorehabilitation nurses. The **UKANN** is currently developing a database for its members so they can easily contact each other, for peer support, to facilitate communication regarding patient transfers, and so they have easy access to geographically-specific information. The third aim is to ensure the development, promotion and maintenance of excellent standards in neurorehabilitation nursing care throughout the UK. The **UKANN** will continue to review and comment on guidelines and best practice standards in order to maintain and expand the role of the neurorehabilitation nurse in the MDT.

## UKANN aims

- To raise the profile of neurorehabilitation amongst nurses
- To encourage nurses to go into the neurorehabilitation sector
- To ensure the development, promotion and maintenance of excellent standards in neurorehabilitation nursing throughout the UK

## UKANN members – working together

The UKANN arranges opportunities for networking, education and training, and provides peer support and career information.

An annual meeting for members takes place with a focus on developments in the sector, and educational forums are organised to further members' training.

The UKANN works closely with **INPA**, the British Association of Neuroscience Nurses, and the Royal College of Nursing Neuroscience Forum.

The organisation welcomes new members. It also welcomes nurses who would like to have a role on the UKANN committee, to help 'steer' the way forwards for the organisation, to ensure it meets its goals and that it fulfils the needs of its members. The committee meets three times a year.

**Further information about UKANN can be found at:**

**<https://www.in-pa.org.uk/uk-alliance-neurorehabilitation-nurses-ukann/>**

**UK Alliance of Neurorehabilitation Nurses**  
*Ensuring the delivery of expert care*

Independent Neurorehabilitation Providers Alliance (INPA)  
Kemp House, 152-160 City Road, London EC1V 2NX

Registered as a Company in England and Wales Company Number: 9601975

To find out more about our work please see [www.in-pa.org.uk](http://www.in-pa.org.uk)