

ENGLISH FOR NURSES

GETTING THE ESSENTIALS RIGHT



UPDATED
FOR 2024/25

Communicating accurately and effectively is critical to the safety, care and wellbeing of patients.

This 120-hour, online course teaches the English that nursing professionals and students need to communicate effectively in all essential situations at work, including key patient interactions, clinical pathways, giving accurate handovers, drugs calculations, post-operative and end-of-life care.

The course is designed for nurses with an intermediate (B1 – B2) level of English who work or study in English.

The course is easy to use, enjoyable and, above all, practical.



“I’ve found the course very useful because above all, I’ve learnt many new words and vocabulary related to healthcare. Also I’ve learnt to express myself better as a nurse and to know how to deal with different situations in English when you are with a patient, colleague or relative.”

Alicia, Spanish nurse
preparing to work in the UK



Course Content

Introducing yourself and saying what you do

- Welcoming a patient
- Talking to patients and colleagues
- Describing your role and responsibilities
- Staff in the hospital
- Medical terminology
- Everyday healthcare language
- Hospital charts: patient admission form

Talking about pain

- Types of pain
- Pain severity and location
- Administering pain medication
- Types of painkillers, side effects
- Chronic pain: osteoarthritis
- Hospital charts: pain scales
- The body: anterior and posterior

Pressure area care

- Pressure ulcers and ulcer stages
- The body: the lower back and buttocks
- Changing a patient’s position
- Intentional rounding
- Pressure area care of wheelchair-bound patients
- Waterlow pressure area assessment tool
- The body: lower back and buttocks

Injuries and falls

- Falls and injuries
- Sprains, strains, fractures and dislocations
- Care of a patient with a plaster cast
- Giving a handover
- Writing an incident report
- Hospital charts: Falls Risk Assessment
- The body: legs, thighs, hips, feet

Infection Control

- PPE, micro-organisms, HCAs
- Taking a blood sample
- Taking a temperature, abnormal readings
- Wound infections, burns chart
- Isolation nursing
- Hospital chart: wound care chart
- The body: skin, nails, hair

Intravenous therapy and IV injections

- IV equipment, needle stick injuries
- Administering IV fluids
- Checking and giving an IV antibiotic; VIP scores
- Drug calculations
- Taking about clinical pathways
- Hospital charts: fluid balance chart
- The body: arms and hands

Administration of medications

- Types of medication
- Checking drugs, dose, frequency, allergies
- Discussing side effects and precautions
- Medication and the elderly
- Putting in eye drops and eye ointment
- Hospital charts: drug charts
- The body: ears and eyes

Breathing difficulties

- Respiration and respiratory difficulties
- Breathing equipment
- Asthma – types of inhalers and nebulisers
- Upper respiratory tract infections
- Discussing lifestyle changes
- Hospital charts: oxygen prescription
- The body: the chest

Diabetes care

- The pancreas
- Types of diabetes
- Asking about diabetes symptoms
- Asking about diabetes complications
- Testing for diabetes
- Talking about diabetes medication

Cardiovascular care

- The heart
- Arrhythmias
- Coronary heart disease 1
- Coronary heart disease 2
- Heart failure
- Heart medication

Mental health care

- The brain
- Mental health conditions
- Depression
- Psychoses
- Anxiety disorders
- Acute confusion
- Mental health and young people

Post-operative care

- Vocabulary of post-operative care
- Taking a handover in Recovery
- Explaining discharge information
- Managing phone enquiries
- Using SBAR to communicate with colleagues
- Hospital documentation: district nurse referral
- The body: the abdomen

End-of-life care

- Types of cancer and cancer treatment
- Talking about chemotherapy side effects
- Managing unpleasant symptoms post- radiotherapy
- Palliative care
- Supporting relatives
- Hospital charts: DNAR orders
- The body: mouth and throat

Inputs: during the course, you listen to conversations, read medical texts, watch animated videos, role play dialogues, analyse hospital charts, look at work-related photographs and images, and study vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation focus points.

Exercises: you take a wide range of exercises to help learn the language you need. The exercises concentrate on learning the English required in a wide variety of work-based scenarios.

Length: 120 hours, with each unit designed to take 10 hours to complete.

Progress Assessment: at the end of every unit, there is a progress review and test so you can assess what you have learnt.

End of Course Achievement Certificate: delivered electronically on course completion. 80 CPD Points.

Course Accreditation: The course is accredited by the CPD Standards Office in the UK, whose professional qualifications are recognised worldwide.

