



Royal College
of Nursing

The voice of nursing in the UK

RCN Fertility Care and Emotional Wellbeing

Francesca Steyn

RCN & Forum functions:

- ❖ We represent Nurses and Nursing which includes Midwives, HCA's and Students
- ❖ Assist with shaping health policy and reform
- ❖ Promote excellence in practice and provide guidance on best practice
- ❖ Across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

34 Forums & Networks

MEMBER INTERFACE FOR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY FOR THE RCN



RCN Fertility Nursing Forum

- ▶ **Fiona Pringle (Chair)**
- ▶ **Jill Wilson**
- ▶ **Kirsty-Lee Wright**
- ▶ **Francesca Steyn**
- ▶ **Alice Denga**
- ▶ **Yvonne Wedden**
- ▶ **Louise Mitchell**

And

- ▶ **Jane Denton RCN Fellow**

**Carmel Bagness, RCN Professional
Lead Midwifery & Woman's Health**

Nicola Mills Coordinator

The project

The emotional care and wellbeing of patients going through fertility treatment is an extremely important part of the care pathway.

Nurses, Midwives and Health Care Assistants are well placed to ensure that the emotional care and wellbeing of people accessing fertility treatment is considered.

However, guidance for healthcare professionals is required to ensure that fertility nursing staff have the tools to enable them to provide good emotional support.

Stakeholders



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Stakeholders involved in the project:

- ▶ HFEA
- ▶ BICA
- ▶ Fertility Network UK
- ▶ SING
- ▶ The dovecote
- ▶ BFS
- ▶ Fertility Nursing Forum
- ▶ Mental Health Forum

Project timeline:

- ▶ **February 2019** - Project team meeting
Contributors will be allocated specific tasks to complete and will have submitted those for review to the project lead.
- ▶ **May 2019** project team teleconference to confirm work is progressing and will enable management of tasks, timelines and risks.
- ▶ **July 2019** first draft out to project team and stakeholders for comments.
- ▶ **September 2019** final copy to RCN publications team
- ▶ Project complete by **December 2019** and launch at the annual RCN Fertility Nursing Conference 2020

Aims:

- ▶ An A5 handbook
- ▶ Provide guidance on key areas including: Mental health, HFEA CoP, support, treatment failure, counselling, support for staff, diversity, language barriers and work pressures.
- ▶ References and further information
- ▶ An online and printed publication for nursing staff to implement into practice.

Promoting excellence in practice

2017 - The RCN Fertility Nursing Forum have produced guidance on Fertility Preservation to

- ▶ Raise awareness
- ▶ Improve outcomes
- ▶ Empower Nurses



2018 Promoting excellence in practice by promoting nursing careers



An RCN Education and Career Progression Framework for Fertility Nursing

CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE



A tool for Nurses and
Healthcare Assistants
which provides guidance,
learning objectives and
competency assessment.

[https://www.rcn.org.uk/
professional-
development/publication
s/pdf-006690](https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pdf-006690)

Our Facebook page and Twitter feed.

The image displays two screenshots side-by-side. The left screenshot shows the Facebook page for the 'RCN Fertility Nursing Forum', a closed group. The page features a blue header with the group name and a search bar. Below the header is a large blue image of a microscopic view of a cell. The left sidebar contains navigation options like 'About', 'Discussion', 'Members', 'Events', 'Photos', 'Files', 'Group Insights', and 'Manage Group'. The main content area shows a pinned post from the 'Royal College of Nursing' dated August 22, 2017, with a welcome message and links to the forum's website and Twitter. The right screenshot shows the Twitter profile for 'RCN Fertility Nurses' (@RCNFertility). The profile includes a blue header with the RCN logo and the text 'Royal College of Nursing'. Below the header are statistics: 666 Tweets, 238 Following, 359 Followers, and 68 Likes. The main content area shows a pinned tweet from @RCNFertility dated 10 Apr 2017, which provides information on how to join the forum and access resources. The right sidebar shows a 'Who to follow' section with profiles like 'IVF Matters', 'Cryolab', and 'IMT International'.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/forums/fertility-nursing-forum>