

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY PRESS RELEASE

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on 12th May and is an opportunity for nurses to celebrate nursing and the contribution we make to improve the lives of individuals and their families. The International Council of Nurses theme for 2012 is Closing The Gap: From Evidence to Action, and focuses on the following elements: understanding evidence, sources of evidence, from evidence to action and making the case for change.

Critical Care nurses care for the sickest patients in the hospital and are highly skilled professionals. Patients requiring critical care services will be recovering from a major operation, or life threatening illness and may require the use of a life support machine.

The British Association of Critical Care Nurses is dedicated to promoting excellence in the nursing care of critically ill patients. As well as being highly specialised in the physical and technological care such sick patients require critical care nurses recognise the necessity of psychological and social support.

This year the British Association of Critical Care Nurses want to stress the importance of holistic care and the vital part, family and friends, play in the support and recovery of patients. We are marking this important day with the launching of our National Standards on Visiting to Adult Critical Care Units in the UK. This document provides evidence based guidelines for best practice regarding visiting policies. The use of evidence based practice is in keeping with the International Council of Nurses theme for 2012. All too often in the past the decision to allow visitors into critical care units was based on individual nurses' beliefs or outdated, ritualistic traditions. The importance of support from family and friends during critical illness cannot be emphasised enough, our evidence based guidelines can be found at www.baccn.org.uk

International Nurses' Day is for all nurses who care and the BACCN want to celebrate the hard work that all critical care nurses provide regardless of what position they hold.

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