A day in the life of a nurse from ....

Project made by students attending the Florence Network the 22\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Meeting 2014 Ankara, Turkey

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Denmark

**Working hours**
Morning shift: 7 h – 15 h  
Afternoon shift: 13:30 h – 21:30 h  
Night shift: 21 h – 7:30 h

**Main tasks**
They have less focus on medical stuff and more focus on relationships between nurse and patient. They do basal hygienic, documentation, clean wounds…. Holistic care is very central in danish nursery.

**Inter-professional relationships**
There is a clear hierarchy between the professions in Denmark. They do work well with the co-workers anyhow.

Sweden

**Working hours**
Morning shift: 7 h – 15:30 h  
Afternoon shift: 13:30 – 21:30  
Nightshift: 21 h – 7:30 h

**Patient load**
The patient load is in many places to extreme due to lack of nurses in Sweden. The latest research shows that Sweden is missing 50 000 nurses at the time.

**Main tasks**
Our main task is the medication of our patients. It is also a lot of documentation. We do medical stuff like taking blood samples and so on in a daily basis. Delegating the basal hygienic part to the nurse assistant and overseeing all care for patients is our duty as well. The nurse assistant is often the one doing the hygienic parts but the nurse has the responsibility for it so therefor we often do it ourselves our at least help the nurse assistant. There is a lot of planning and the nurse is sort of a spider in the web.

**Inter-professional relationships**
We work really close to doctors and nurse assistant on a daily basis. There is a hierarchy when speaking of salary but the responsibility are shared between all professions. For example if a doctors orders to much medicine and the patients gets ill for that, the nurse will also be convicted for not noticing the wrong amount of medicine.
**Norway**

**Working hours**
They work 7.5 h – 8 h / shift

**Patient load**
The patient load varies. The most general patient load is between 5 and 7 patients per nurse. They usually have like 4 - 6 nurses on one ward.

**Main tasks**
Medical nursing procedure like diagnostics and vital parameters. They have a lot of paperwork. Hygienic and psychical care is really important as well.

**Inter-professional relationships**
They feel it’s easy to communicate with doctors and psychical therapists at the wards. Doctors values the nurses’ opinions as they are the ones carrying for the patients. They work side by side.

**Portugal**

**Working hours**
Portuguese nurses works either in hospitals, nursing homes or in health centre. In these three different settings the work hours varies a lot. But in general they have 40 hours/week. A lot of the nurses have a second job as well to get by which makes the working hours insane.

**Patient load**
In hospitals they normally have 32 patients on 4 nurses.

**Main tasks**
It is a range of tasks for a nurse in Portugal. It’s everything between basal hygiene, performing technical tasks like intubating, collecting blood samples, creating venous access etc..

**Inter-professional relationship**
The relations with medical teams varies according to various factors like your experience as a nurse, what kind of people your working with, the institution and so on.
Spain

**Working hours**
They work between 7 h and 8 hours on the two dayshifts. At night they work as much as 10 hours. On weekend they can reach 12 hours.

**Main tasks**
As a nurse in Spain they give and prepare medication, they do vital parameter controls, collecting blood samples, documentation, hygienic, feeding and so on…

**Inter-professional relationship**
They work close to the doctors at day but at afternoon and night they have to call the emergency if something happens to the patients.

Italy

**Working hours**
In their country the shifts are divided into three (7h-14h, 14h-21h and 21h-7h).

**Main tasks**
At first they analyse and control the conditions of the patients. You can do various tasks like organize, paperwork, collecting blood samples, giving therapy, feeding, accompanying and a lot more.

**Inter-professional relationships**
There are some professions who support nurses in the basic care. They are physiotherapists, doctors and nurse assistants. The relationships are good and really important.
Switzerland

**Working hours**
The have 8 hours day, late and night shift.

**Patient load**
The workload is pretty high: 1 nurse at 6-10 patients.

**Main tasks**
Basic care, provide patient wellbeing. Technical skills like injections, take blood, wound care, placement of naso-gastric tube, infusion. Preparation of medication and the following application. Inter-professional role: organization of therapies of patient, talk to doctors about the procedure of treatment, talk to relatives and physiotherapist and more. Documentation is important for nurses especially because of the law.

**Inter-professional relationships**
There is a lack of nurses so nursing students are usually used as more or less fully educated nursed. If a student had questions he/she has a person to ask but normally you work quite independent. For medication there is most often a nurse controls the student.

The Netherlands

**Working hours**
They have 3 shifts: 7am -4pm, 2pm-10pm, 10pm – 7am. 8 hour 24 min per day.

**Patient load**
The workload is 1 nurse on 6 patients.

**Main tasks**
Arranging all the care around the patient: from admission till discharge. A lot of administration. Carrying out doctors orders and discuss with other professions and Care plan, interventions and evaluation. Importance of multidisciplinary meetings

We are allowed to bring in a feeding tube, urinary catheterization, wound care, giving medicine etc. They have very high expectations of the nurse and they have a high independence level.

**Inter-professional relationships**
The there is a lack of nurses so nursing students are usually used as more or less fully educated nursing students. If a student had questions he/she has a person to ask but normally you work quite independent. For medication there is most often a nurse controls the student.

Other main topics and important notes:
We have different levels in nurses, MBO/Lower education (level 4) and HBO/Bachelor (level 5) and Master/Nurse practitioner (level 6). Evidence-based practice is getting more and more important in the Netherlands.

And a lot more…
**Finland**

**Working hours:**
3 shifts: 7:00 -15:00, 13:00- 21:00, 21:00-7:00

**Patient Load:**
Depends on the unit. 5-8 patients a nurse

**Main tasks:**
Carry out doctor’s orders about medicine, fluids, wounds etc.

**Inter-professional relationships:**
Assistant nurses do almost the same work except the medications. Nurses do treatments and medications, blood transfusions, fluids etc. Doctor’s give orders about medication, nutrition, fluids, treatment, screens, blood test etc. The doctor’s are responsible for everything in the end.

**Germany**

**Working Hours**
In Germany there are three shifts a day. Every nurse has a break of 30 minutes during shift.

**Patient load**
In normal wards there are 7-9 nurses per nurse. Because of The shortage of nurses, The work load can be a lot higher. In the IC there are 2-4 patients per nurse.

**Main tasks**
- Parameters
- Control of urine and blood sugar
- Hygienic care
- Infusion, injections, catherization, taking a bloodsample
- Assisting during doctor visits
- Mobilisation

**Inter-professional**
They work together with physiotherapist
Belgium

**Working hours** They work 7h38 per shift. The day is divided in three shifts. Shifts differ from hospital to hospital, but are generally divided like this:
- Morning: 7am - 3pm
- Afternoon: 1or 2pm - 9 or 10pm
- Night: 10pm - 7am

**Patient load**
The workload is high: 1 nurse 8-10 patients

**Main tasks**
Briefing: Medication and parameters, Hygienic care, Doctors consultation: following, sharing observation, Lunch for patients, Break for nurses and briefing afternoon shift and very different: consultations, individual care, paperwork, control of the stock..

**Inter-professional relationships** Once a week there is a multidisciplinary meeting. In Belgium, most hospitals nurses and doctors are not at the same level. As a nurse, you have to be confident and take initiative to convince the doctor to listen to you. A lot of wards have special logistic employees. They hand out the meals, make sure that the stock etc. A team of nurses always works together with nursing-aids.

**Other main topics and important notes:** There are two types of nurses in Belgium. The bachelor and a level that is called 'hbo5'. They do the same work, but the training of hbo5 is more practical. Hbo5-nurses tend to work more often in peripheral(?) hospitals and earn less than bachelors.
## Midwife International

### Turkey and Belgium

#### Working hours
There are three different kinds of shifts. They have 8 h, 16 h or 24 hours.

#### Main tasks
Check parents and child’s vital parameters, blood samples, psychological care for parents, hygienic is really important. Turkish hospitals have special employees for patient care, that means that the nurse doesn’t bath the baby for example.

#### Trivia
It was impossible for boys to be nurses only seven years ago. Now days more and more boys apply.

### Working hours
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#### Main tasks
As a midwife in Belgium there is three main departments. Maternity, delivery room and neonatology.

- **Maternity**: Hygienic care, vital parameters, bathe the babies, logistic tasks when time is available, blood samples, catheterisation, help with breastfeeding, paperwork.
- **Delivery room**: Prepare the mother, delivering babies, follow the vital parameters and heart of the baby, help the anaesthetic doctor placing the epidural, psychological support for mother, after the birth they take length, weight and other necessary information, preparation of skin to skin contact and first breastfeeding, control of uterus, blood loss.
- **Neonatology**: Watch monitors, feed the babies, psychological care for patients, place IV infusion, blood samples, stomach catheterisation…

- **Inter-professional relationships**: Works close to doctors.
Scotland

**Working hours**
Morning shift: 7 h – 15 h  
Afternoon shift: 14 h – 15 h  
Night shift: 22 h – 7 h

**Main task**
The fundamental principles of midwifery in Scotland is always the same: “To be with woman”, providing holistic care and recognising deviations from normality. Health promotion like current public health and teaching the future mothers how to take care of themselves and the child. Information and education is their primary priority. Documentation is also extremely important “if it’s not written, it wasn’t done”

**Inter-professional relationships**
The midwifes responsibility to communicate and work cohesively with the multidisciplinary team and advocate for woman…

Switzerland

**Working hours**
Morning shift: 7 h – 16 h  
Afternoons hift: 14:30 h – 23:30 h  
Nightshift: 23 h – 7:30 h

**Main tasks**
Prenatal care, labour care, postpregnancy care, courses like labour courses, baby courses, consultation about sexuality, research, lectures. They also have a big administrative duty.

**Inter-professional relationships**
They work close with doctors and other wards. A problem they have is that it is a lot of conflicts among the midwifes in Switzerland but also conflicts between doctors and midwifes.

**Trivia:**
You can work in either hospitals, birth houses or as a free standing nurse in Switzerland.