

Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service

LONDON FIELD

A Domiciliary Care Agency.

Statement of Purpose

Incorporating the Aims and Objectives of the Organisation

Registered Charity Number 209230

Care Quality Commission
Provider 1-101643210

June 2021

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Registered Provider

HAWTHORNE TRUST LIMITED, Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JT.

Aims and Objectives

The Agency (hereinafter called the "Service") is established for charitable purposes and objects only to provide means whereby those who have chosen to rely solely upon the Bible-based method of spiritual healing, **Christian Science**, can receive Christian Science nursing care in their own homes. This method of spiritual healing is set out in **Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures** by Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science. The reliance of Christian Scientists on prayer alone for healing is an integral part of their worship of God and the practice of their religion. Service Users (hereinafter called "Patients") engage their own **Christian Science practitioner**, listed in the current issue of **The Christian Science Journal**¹, who works with them through prayer, to bring about the healing.

Mary Baker Eddy made provision for the ministry of the Christian Science nurse in a By-law (Article VIII, Section 31) in the Church's governing document, the **Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist (The Mother Church)** for those in need of nursing care consistent with the theology of Christian Science. Christian Science nurses are required to possess "*a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice*" in addition to thoroughly understanding "*the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room*", and being able to "*take proper care of the sick*".²

No medical processes, remedies or interventions are undertaken and as there are no consultations with doctors or associated medical professionals, there is no diagnosis or prognosis of a patient's affliction or injury. All nursing care is rendered by qualified Christian Science nurses whose cards³ appear in **The Christian Science Journal** and by trainee Christian Science nurses acting under their supervision.

At any time, a patient has the right to choose another method of health care, although this could not be provided by the Service. Every effort would be expended by the Christian Science nurse to assist patients to gain access to the care of their choice.

Brief History of Service

The Service, the first of its kind in England, was established in January 1951 as the "Christian Science Home Visiting Service." It became a registered charity on 30th March 1964. It was recognised by The Christian Science Board of Directors in August 1967. In 1981 it changed its title to "Visiting Nurse Service for Christian Scientists, London Field" with the approval of The Charity Commission. Following registration with the CSCI in July 2004, the Service became a subsidiary of Hawthorne Trust Ltd. in 2006. In April 2017 the Service received the permission of The Charity Commission to change its title to the "Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, London Field." The purpose of the name change is to ensure that the public can be in no doubt that it is religious non-medical nursing that is offered. Its income is derived from donations from branch Churches of Christ, Scientist, individuals and legacies.

¹ Official organ of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

² **Christian Science Nurse.** SECT. 31. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick. The cards of such persons may be inserted in *The Christian Science Journal* under rules established by the publishers. (Church Manual Article VIII SECT 31)

³ The Church Manual By-law for the nurse provides for a qualified Christian Science nurse to apply to advertise in *The Christian Science Journal*.

Theology of Christian Science Nursing Care

Christian Science treatment is given through the prayer that identifies man with his perfect, inviolate, innate spiritual identity as the image and likeness of God. As the patient becomes conscious of this fact, through the prayerful support of his/her Christian Science practitioner, the patient responds and healing takes place. Mary Baker Eddy encapsulates the *modus operandi* of healing in Christian Science thus: "*The physical healing of Christian Science results now, as in Jesus' time, from the operation of divine Principle, before which sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness and disappear as naturally and as necessarily as darkness gives place to light and sin to reformation.*" (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures xi: 9-14). The application of material and medical therapies interferes with this natural process of restoration. Sometimes healing is a gradual process and the physical needs of the patient need to be properly taken care of in the interim, so our theology of care is holistic and considers the needs of the whole person and is geared to maintaining the highest relevant degree of normality as patients progress towards their healing.

Christian Science nurses are recognised by UK Visas and Immigration as ministers of religion and come into the country from outside the European Economic Area under their Tier 2 "Ministers of Religion" category.

Care Quality Commission Nominated Individual

Mrs. Ednah Lawal, Administrator

Hawthorne Trust Limited, Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JT

Telephone: 01322 863116 Email: administrator@chartonmanor.org

Registered Manager

Mrs. Valerie McIntyre, Visiting Christian Science Nurse

Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JT

Telephone: 01322 863116 Email: vcsns@chartonmanor.org

Included with this document copies of:

Christian Science Nurse Scope of Services

The First Church of Christ, Scientist

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SCOPE OF SERVICES

Christian Science nursing is grounded in the Bible-based theology of Christian Science, which includes Christ Jesus' commandment to love one another (see John 15:12). This practical care is carried out with prayer, wisdom and skill, supporting the patient's decision to rely on Christian Science for healing, which includes treatment by prayer, generally from a *Journal*-listed Christian Science practitioner.

The founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, established the authority and standard for the Christian Science nurse in 1908, in the *Manual of The Mother Church*. (Page 49, Article VIII, Section 31):

Christian Science Nurse. SECT. 31. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.

The cards of such persons may be inserted in The Christian Science Journal under rules established by the publishers.

Individuals advertising in *The Christian Science Journal* and *The Herald of Christian Science* have presented satisfactory evidence that they fulfill the requirements in this By-Law.

This *Scope of Services* is intended to clarify for patients and other interested persons what they may expect when engaging the services of a Christian Science nurse. It touches briefly on the main aspects of, and ethical considerations related to, those services.

Continued on the other side

The care of the Christian Science nurse includes:

- Accepting a case with the expectancy of complete and quick healing;
- Giving care that is consistent with the theology and ethics of Christian Science;
- Loving reassurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence; faithfully and consistently acknowledging each individual's spiritual perfection;
- Christian encouragement of a patient's appropriate expression of activity and vitality;
- Reading to or with an individual from the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy; also, additional literature published by The Christian Science Publishing Society;
- Communication: maintaining an ethical, moral, and loving manner in all communications with the patient, family, friends, Christian Science practitioner, and others; observing ethical and legal requirements with regard to private information about the patient;
- Surroundings: maintaining an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual healing and supportive of harmonious care;
- Personal care and bathing: assisting with all necessary care to meet the needs of cleanliness and comfort;
- Mobility: assisting with mobility including assisting with standing, walking, moving and settling with or without mobility aids or comfort items;
- Nourishment: preparing and modifying food; assisting with feeding; giving appropriate encouragement to eat;
- Cleansing/bandaging: cleansing, covering and bandaging, to provide for cleanliness, protection, support, and comfort;
- Instructing the patient or others in providing care for meeting individual needs;
- Being obedient to the laws of the land.

The care of the Christian Science nurse does not include:

- Making a medical diagnosis or prognosis;
- Assuming responsibility for making health care decisions for the patient;
- Administering medication, drugs or using medicated, herbal, or vitamin-based products and remedies;
- Using and administering medically oriented techniques or technology, including, but not limited to, administering food or liquids with medical equipment, e.g.—intravenous feeding;
- Manipulation, massage, physical therapy;
- Assuming responsibility for a patient's financial or household business transactions;
- Intruding on the private relationship between the patient and the Christian Science practitioner, or between the patient and his or her family;
- Giving personal advice and counsel.

Fundamental to the ministry of a Christian Science nurse is active, prayerful affirmation of everyone's innate spirituality and responsiveness to God's harmonious government. This spiritual witnessing undergirds each aspect of the care a Christian Science nurse renders.