

THE VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, LONDON FIELD

A Domiciliary Care Service

Statement of Purpose

Attachment: The Christian Science Nurse Scope of Services issued by
The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts,
November 2018

Hawthorne Trust Limited
Charton Manor, Gorse Hill, Farningham, Kent DA4 0JT.
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A Company Limited by Guarantee: Registered in England No. 293710.
Registered Office as above. Registered Charity No. 209230-1

Aims and Objectives

The Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, London Field was established in 1951 for charitable purposes and its object is 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.

Committed Christian Scientists have come to the conclusion, reinforced by their own experience, of the effectiveness of prayer, with the assistance of a Christian Science practitioner, to effect healing through spiritual regeneration. In this process there is no diagnosis of the physical or mental condition to be healed.

The carrying out of medical procedures and the administering of medication are not in the remit of Christian Science nursing activity and Christian Scientists relying on such processes would not be accepted by the Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service. No medical processes, remedies or interventions are undertaken and there are no consultations with General Practitioners or associated medical professionals.

At any time, a Service User has the right to choose another method of health care.

All Christian Science nursing care is rendered by qualified Christian Science nurses whose cards appear in *The Christian Science Journal* and/or by trainee Christian Science nurses acting under their direction.

Details of the Service Provided

We provide domiciliary Christian Science nursing care to adults who wish to rely on Christian Science for healing.

Philosophy of Care

Christian Science nurses will preserve and maintain the dignity, individuality and privacy of Service Users within a warm, safe and caring atmosphere in their homes, and will be sensitive to the changing needs of Service Users. Such needs may be cultural, psychological, spiritual, emotional, social, and/or for physical and mental welfare. Service Users are encouraged to participate in the development of their individualised Care Plans, in which the involvement of family and friends is appropriate and greatly valued.

The following core values of care are fundamental to the provision of this domiciliary care:

- PRIVACY:** The right of a Service User to be left alone and undisturbed whenever s/he wishes.
- DIGNITY & RESPECT:** The understanding of a Service User's needs and treating a Service User with respect.
- INDEPENDENCE:** Allowing a Service User to take calculated risks, to make his/her own decisions and think and act for him/herself.
- CHOICE:** Giving a Service User the opportunity to select for him/herself from a range of alternative options which may be appropriate to him/her.
- RIGHTS:** Keeping all basic human rights available to Service Users.
- FULFILLMENT:** Enabling the Service User to realise his/her own aims and helping him/her to achieve these goals in all aspects of daily living.

Key Individuals and Addresses:

Care Quality Commission Nominated Individual

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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. 37. 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.

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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.

Updated by Christian Science Nursing Activities
The First Church of Christ, Scientist, November 2018