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Table of Contents

1.1 Introduction.....	3
2 Registered Nurse in the Health and Social Care Field.....	3
2.1 Description of Registered Nurse in Health and Social Care.....	3
2.2 Explanation of Most Significant Skills Needed for Registered Nurse in Health and Social Care.....	4
2.3 Consequences of Poorly Developed Skills.....	4s
3 Strategies for Skill Improvement for Registered Nurse.....	5
3.1 Three Strategies to Improve the Skills for Registered Nurse	5
4 Conclusion	6
5 Reference List.....	7

1 Introduction

The health and social care sector is important in promoting health, in preventing illness and in supporting individuals' wellbeing. Registered Nurses give patients safe, compassionate and evidence-based care in a variety of healthcare settings (Nursing and Midwifery Council, 2024). This report looks at the role of the Registered Nurse and considers three key skills that are necessary for effective professional practice: communication, critical thinking and teamwork. It will first outline the role and its main responsibilities, then explain why these three skills are important and finally deal with the strategies for developing them and how they can contribute to safe, high-quality, patient-centred care.

2 Registered Nurse in the Health and Social Care Field

2.1 Description of Registered Nurse in Health and Social Care

Registered Nurses play an important role in the health and social care sector by providing direct care and support to patients with diverse health needs. Their responsibilities can include assessing patients, monitoring vital signs, administering medication, maintaining accurate patient records and communicating changes in a patient's condition to other healthcare professionals. Registered Nurses also work as part of a multidisciplinary team to support safe and effective patient care.

An important part of the role is to provide patient-centred care while maintaining professional standards and respecting patients' dignity, privacy and individual needs. For example, when caring for a patient whose condition changes, a Registered Nurse needs to recognise the change, conduct an appropriate assessment, and communicate relevant information to the healthcare team. This requires effective communication, critical thinking and teamwork. These skills are therefore important because they support clinical decision-making and help nurses provide safe, responsive and high-quality care.

2.2 Explanation of Most Significant Skills Needed for Registered Nurse in Health and Social Care

It is important for Registered Nurses to communicate since this enables them to understand their patients and to take the right actions. They must communicate effectively both with patients and with other members of the healthcare team. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2024) states that good communication is at the heart of giving safe, compassionate and person-centred care. Nurses should report any significant changes in a patient's condition to the healthcare team and make sure that relevant information is shared clearly and accurately. At the same time, they have to listen carefully to patients and grasp their concerns. This in turn will help to establish a therapeutic relationship and contribute to the delivery of safe and high-quality care.

Critical thinking is a vital ability for Registered Nurses since they must evaluate different situations and take the correct decisions when a patient's condition changes. To do this, a Registered Nurse must stay concentrated and keep a close watch on the patient in order to spot any changes or possible problems Silitonga et al, (2026). Nurses should be capable of thinking critically, using evidence and their experience, and making decisions that are based on evidence. For instance, if a patient's vital signs change, the nurse must assess the situation, identify the possible risks and decide on the appropriate action. Thus, critical thinking aids clinical decision-making and helps to ensure safe and effective patient care.

Teamwork is a necessity for Registered Nurses since delivering safe patient care depends on working effectively with other healthcare professionals. In order to look after their patients, Registered Nurses must communicate clearly with the rest of the healthcare team and apply critical thinking when making decisions regarding patient care. According to NHS England (2025), teamwork in the healthcare sector means that people work together to give safe and high-quality care, with effective communication between different professional groups. For instance, if a patient's condition changes, the nurse has to identify the situation, pass on the relevant information and cooperate with other professionals in arriving at the right course of action. It follows that good teamwork can help to ensure patient safety and play a part in providing high-quality, patient-centred care.

2.3 Consequences of Poorly Developed Skills

Patient safety can be endangered when communication, critical thinking or teamwork skills are poorly developed (NHS England, 2023). For example, if a Registered Nurse fails to communicate important changes in a patient's condition to the healthcare team, the relevant information may not be shared properly and the patient could thus be placed at potential risk. In a similar way, if a nurse observes a change in a patient's condition but does not apply critical

thinking to evaluate the situation, an appropriate response might be delayed. Additionally, bad teamwork can also make it more difficult for healthcare professionals to work together effectively. Hence, these three skills are closely linked and are important for ensuring patient safety and for delivering high-quality care.

3 Strategies for Skill Improvement for Registered Nurse

3.1 Three Strategies to Improve the Skills for Registered Nurse

One strategy to improve communication is to participate in professional training and receive feedback from a qualified healthcare professional. This will help a Registered Nurse to become more confident when talking to patients and to other members of the healthcare team. Chan et al. (2020). Effective communication is necessary if safe, compassionate and person-centred care is to be provided. Communication training offers the chance to practise active listening, give clear explanations, and use the right professional language. Moreover, learning to use clinical terminology correctly can help nurses communicate information accurately with other healthcare professionals. For instance, a Registered Nurse might attend a communication course and practice explaining a patient's condition using appropriate clinical terminology. This approach can lead to greater confidence and clearer, more effective communication in clinical practice.

One strategy to improve critical thinking is to work through clinical case scenarios and practise spotting changes in a patient's condition. This helps a Registered Nurse learn to evaluate a situation, spot potential risks, and decide when it is necessary to take further action or ask another healthcare professional for advice. According to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2018), nurses should be able to think critically, apply evidence and experience, and make evidence-based decisions. For instance, if a patient exhibits a change in their health, the nurse can use a clinical scenario to practise assessing the information, identifying any potential risks, and deciding whether to act or seek support from the healthcare team. This approach can enhance clinical reasoning and contribute to safer decision-making.

One strategy to improve teamwork is to ensure effective communication and collaboration with other members of the healthcare team. It is important for a Registered Nurse to know which members of the healthcare team should be informed of a patient's condition or any concerns regarding their care. Gluyas (2015) good teamwork involves people working together to provide safe, high-quality care, with open, respectful, and honest communication among different professional groups. The nurse should also display respect and patience when working with colleagues and be honest when giving information about the patient's condition. For instance, if a patient's health changes, the Registered Nurse should relay the relevant

information to the appropriate healthcare professional so the team can respond effectively. This approach can help to strengthen teamwork and contribute to safe, patient-centred care.

4 Conclusion

In conclusion, Registered Nurses play an important role in providing safe and high-quality care to patients. Communication, critical thinking, and teamwork are essential skills because they help nurses understand patients' needs, recognize changes in their condition, and work effectively with other healthcare professionals. These skills can be improved through professional training and feedback, clinical case scenarios, and effective communication and collaboration with the healthcare team. Developing these skills can help Registered Nurses make appropriate decisions and support patient safety. Overall, these skills are important for providing effective, respectful, and patient-centred care.

5 Reference List

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