The Royal College of Nursing in Wales will be holding its inaugural RCN in Wales Nurse of the Year Awards in City Hall on Wednesday, 28 November 2012.

The RCN in Wales Nurse of the Year Awards are open to all registered nurses, midwives and health care support workers working in Wales.

The awards are aimed at healthcare professionals who have raised the standards of care for their patients and clients and have demonstrated leadership and innovation that has benefited health care.

Any individual may nominate a candidate for these awards.

The awards categories are:
- Chief Nursing Officer for Wales Award
- Health Care Support Worker Award
- Nursing Student Award
- Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Award
- Children and Midwifery Award
- Clinical Nurse Specialist Award
- Community Nursing Award
- Nursing Research and Innovation Award
- Registered Nurse (Adult) Award

The Nurse of the Year in Wales 2012 will be selected from the winners of the nine awards.

How to Apply

Complete the attached nomination form, including a 500 word (maximum) citation about the nominee and their work.

The selection criteria are that the nominees have:
- demonstrated excellence in their field of practice.
- made a significant contribution to the nursing community and the nation’s health care.
- Proven to be an inspirational role model for the nursing and health care community.

It is anticipated that for most awards there will be a single nominee. If it can be demonstrated that the work undertaken was of a joint nature, a nomination of up to two candidates per award may be considered.

The selection of Award winners will be made by a panel of judges. Awards are non-transferable and the judges’ decision is final.

If short-listed, the candidate will be required to attend an interview scheduled by the RCN in Wales.

Attendance at the interview and awards ceremony is mandatory.

Shortlisted candidates are required to attend the award ceremony. Inability to attend will disqualify shortlisted candidates.

Application forms received after the closing date will not be considered.

The RCN reserves the right to disqualify any candidate at any stage of the selection process if it is considered to be in the best interest of the nursing and midwifery profession.

Please send your entry form to:
RCN in Wales Nurse of the Year Awards
Royal College of Nursing Wales
Ty Maeth
King George V Drive East
Cardiff
CF14 4XZ

Closing date for all application forms is 20 July 2012.

Please ensure that the nominee has consented to their name being put forward for an award.
Nurse of the Year in Wales 2012 Awards Criteria

When deciding the recipients of the Nurse of the Year Awards, the judging panels consider the nominee's achievements in the year immediately prior to receiving the award. They also review their past achievements and ongoing contribution to nursing and healthcare. The number of nominations received per nominee will add no weight to their selection. There is no need for more than a single nomination to be made per candidate.

The selection criteria for judging nominees are that they will have:

- Demonstrated excellence in their field.
- Made a significant contribution to the nursing community and the nation’s healthcare.
- Been an inspirational role model for the nursing and health care community.

The selection panel will also look at:

- Personal, academic and professional achievements.
- The nominees contribution in their field of practice (how has the nominee 'put back' into their field of practice to benefit others).
- How they have demonstrated leadership, innovation and creativity.
- Their personal interests and community involvement.
- Their future goals and likely impact.
- The degree of difficulty of the achievement and sacrifices made.
- Any previous awards and recognition.
- The nature and length of activity or service.
- Additional achievements as an individual or as part of a group or organisation.
- Their availability and commitment to promote nursing pride and ability to be active throughout the year that they receive the award.

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominees must work in Wales.
- Awards will not be granted posthumously.
- Self nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominees that have already received a similar national award for their project or their contribution to nursing care in the same year as these awards will not be considered. They may be nominated in a separate category in following years.
- Unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated in subsequent years.
- Although no more than two staff members per nomination are permitted, in exceptional cases with clear evidence, the selection panels reserve the right to consider the nominations of groups of staff or clinical teams.

Nurse of the Year Wales 2012

- The Nurse of the Year Wales 2012 will be selected from the winners of the nine awards.
Health Care Support Worker Award

Health care support workers are an extremely valuable member of the multidisciplinary healthcare team. They work within hospital or community settings under the guidance and supervision of a registered nurse. Health Care Support Worker roles vary depending on the area in which the person is working.

Health Care Support Workers are sometimes known by other titles such as nursing auxiliaries, health care assistants or auxiliary nurses.

About the award: The award is open to any Health Care Support Worker who works as part of a nursing team and has demonstrated commitment to high standards of patient care. The award is also open to Assistant Practitioners who work as part of a nursing team.

This award is sponsored by The Open University in Wales.
It is important that a third party verifies your nomination. Please ask a colleague of the nurse you are nominating, or a suitable person, to verify that your entry is genuine and sincere.
Please describe why the nominee deserves this award (500 words).