

# Member Spotlight

## Mouthcare Matters

Jo Prior

Community Stroke Co-ordinator

**What started as an area of concern for our member Jo, has become her area of expertise, seeing her rise to HEE/MCM as clinical training lead for the South West providing training to nursing and care homes, and later Jo became the oral hygiene lead at the acute trust that she worked with.**



As a direct result of this involvement, Jo successfully applied to be seconded to HEE/MCM as clinical training lead for the South West. She now spends one day a week delivering training to nursing and care homes across Swindon and Wiltshire.

Jo says 'The role is varied, I have autonomy to deliver the training via any means I feel is appropriate. All the staff I meet are passionate about delivering good quality patient care to their residents and service users. They are always shocked at how much they have learned from attending one of my sessions'

Jo is having a big impact on patient care. Due to her work, her Trust are auditing the documentation of oral hygiene care in patient deaths from pneumonia.

Read Jo's own words in her blog on our website including insights into the challenges she faced and the things she has achieved.

Just scan the QR code for Jo's words in full.

**If you have a piece of work you are proud of and want to share with the stroke nursing community, please get in touch.**

Jo was ward sister on a 30 bedded stroke rehabilitation ward when she first noticed that patients were not getting the oral hygiene care they needed.

Working alongside the ward staff to remove the days of built-up plaque and dried secretions was unpleasant, especially for patients and their families.

As a result of this, Jo carried out a ward-based audit and implemented an essential nurse rounding tool which included oral hygiene as well as repositioning the patient and offering fluid intake, and invested in an oral suction tooth brushing kit.

Jo provided oral health training alongside the medical reps who supplied the products that were used, and oral hygiene improved.

Several years later as the specialist nurse in the Community stroke team, she still observed the challenges with maintaining good oral hygiene. When the opportunity arose to join the Hospital Mouth care Matters working group, she jumped at it.

Jo says, '3 years on the work we have achieved locally is impressive to say the least.'

The team have written an oral hygiene policy and developed an oral hygiene assessment tool based on the HEE MCM publications.

Jo has delivered training to most of the wards within her trust, delivered training to junior doctors, newly qualified nurses, at HCA induction and to all nutrition champions at the Hospital and now is an identified lead for the trust for oral hygiene and Mouth Care Matters.



Scan the QR code for  
Jo's full report





NSNF

# Group membership

## Why join.....?

Group membership maximises value by ensuring that multiple team members can benefit from NSNF's offerings. Investing in group membership demonstrates a commitment to staff development, which not only enhances professional skills but also boosts engagement and well-being. This investment contributes to building a stronger, more resilient stroke workforce, ensuring improved care delivery now and in the future. It fosters team growth, encourages a unified approach to stroke care, and supports professional development at an institutional level.

## Join as a Team!

For just £85, ten members gain access to:

Representation in national stroke strategies

Discounted conference fees

Access to webinars, training, and this newsletter

Professional development support

✉ Join via: [NSNFEnquiries@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:NSNFEnquiries@uclan.ac.uk)

## But how.....?



Funding for group membership can be sourced through various avenues. Many hospitals have charitable funds designated for staff education and professional development, which can be utilised to cover membership costs. Business or ward managers are another option, as they may approve funding when presented with a strong case highlighting the value of NSNF membership in enhancing staff skills, engagement, and patient care. Additionally, organisations may explore external grants or sponsorship opportunities from healthcare charities or local funding bodies that support professional development initiatives.

Visit the NSNF Website to explore membership options. Complete the group membership application form and submit the completed form along with payment details to NSNF. Alternatively, you can email [NSNFEnquiries@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:NSNFEnquiries@uclan.ac.uk), and we can arrange for an invoice to be sent.

**For an example of a justification for requesting funding for joining the NSNF as a group, scan this QR code.**

