

Christian Science Nursing
South Africa

Love meets all need

Hymn 500, Christian Science Hymnal

Field Update May 2024

- Christian Science nursing in South Africa
- Help to stay at home
- Financial aid
- Contact details

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING?

Christian Science nurses care for the **practical, daily needs of Christian Scientists** who are relying on God and Christian Science treatment for spiritual healing through prayer and the study of Christian Science and have engaged a Christian Science practitioner for prayerful support.

Christian Science nurses are **members of The Mother Church**, as provided for in the Manual of The Mother Church (Article VIII; Section 31) by Mary Baker Eddy.

The '**Scope of Services**', found at the end of this pamphlet, outlines what kind of care you can expect from a Christian Science nurse and explains what a Christian Science nurse does *not* do.

We currently have **nine trainee Christian Science nurses in South Africa** who are Private Duty Christian Science nurses (i.e self-employed) in training under a mentor through the Le Verger Christian Science Nursing Education programme that began in South Africa in January 2020.

HELP TO STAY AT HOME

A Christian Scientist may find that at times **they need the help of a carer or team of carers in order that they may continue to stay in their home**. Such non-medical carers provide assistance with the practical aspects of daily life such as feeding, bathing and showering, helping with wheelchairs, walking, organising rooms etc.

Individuals who need the help of a carer may or may not necessarily be working with a Christian Science practitioner or Christian Science nurse.

The Christian Science Care Association is available to assist financially in such a case.

WHO CAN CALL FOR A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE?

Anyone working with a Christian Science practitioner for healing can call upon a Christian Science nurse for help.

The Christian Science nurse will **assess the need** (with the help of the mentor), including its financial implications, and produce a contract to be signed by the patient. This contract confirms the Scope of Services and Christian Science nursing care rate.

To **contact a local Christian Science nurse**, please call the CSNSS business operations manager on

cellphone number **072 079 6444**

or email **admin@csnss.co.za**

You can also find worldwide Journal-listed Christian Science nurses and practitioners in the directory section of the Christian Science Journal or on

<https://directory.christianscience.com>

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING CARE ROOM

On occasions it isn't practical for you to receive Christian Science nursing care at home. **Alternative accommodation suitable for Christian Science nursing care can be arranged somewhere convenient for you.**

The Christian Science Care Association has access to **rental cottages in the Cape** and a fully equipped, tranquil Christian Science nursing care room - Khanyisa Cottage, which means place of light - is offered in a **private cottage on the grounds of Knole Park in KwaZulu-Natal** to fulfil this need.



Patients from anywhere in the country who are relying on Christian Science for healing are invited for short-term stays - with the expectancy of quick and complete healing.

Rest and study visitors wanting to spend quiet time in prayer and deepen their understanding of God and Christian Science are also welcome to Khanyisa Cottage for short-term stays.

Call 072 079 6444 or email admin@csnss.co.za to find out more.

FINANCIAL AID

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING

Finances should never be an obstacle to the employment of a Christian Science nurse but rather be viewed as an inclusive aspect of this Manual-based provision.

To this end, **individuals receiving treatment from a Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner and who are members of CSNSS** are invited to apply for financial assistance to pay for Christian Science nursing if needed.

When needed, **the first week of travel and accommodation for the Christian Science nurse is covered for CSNSS members.**

HELP TO STAY AT HOME

Practising Christian Scientists **who on occasion find a need for home care can apply to the Christian Science Care Association to help pay for these costs.**

You need to be a **member of the Care Association** and membership is open to all South African residents who are members of The Mother Church, and/or a Branch church or Society, or an informal group recognised by The Mother Church.

The Christian Science Care Association **does not find or place carers**, and financial aid is ***not offered*** to carer services that include administering medicines/drugs or vitamins, applying medications, poultices, physical therapies or other traditional treatments – including taking temperatures, recommending procedures, advice on diet or exercise and such like.

FINANCIAL AID

Application for financial support should be made **during the period you are receiving help from a Christian Science nurse or carer** and not later than one month after using such a service.

Assistance is given on a case-by-case basis and is regularly reviewed.

Please ask your Christian Science nurse, or the CSNSS business operations manager/Christian Science Care Association administrator for a **financial aid application form** – whether it's for financial assistance for Christian Science nursing or carer services.

Patient confidentiality is extremely important to us, and your identity as a financial aid applicant will not be divulged at any point in the financial aid process.

CONTACT DETAILS

**CSNSS business operations manager and
Christian Science Care Association administrator**

072 079 6444

admin@csnss.co.za

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.

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SCOPE OF SERVICES

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.