

CHARLOTTE WELLS RGN
of
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I am a Registered General Nurse. I trained at St. James' University Hospital, Leeds, West Yorkshire. I have over 30 years' experience of caring for patients in a variety of health care settings including general medicine and surgery, care of the elderly, general practice, cancer care and palliative care.

Since the early 1990s I have become more specifically involved in palliative care. I have worked in hospice inpatient and day patient units and primarily in community settings.

I have over 25 years' experience as a district nurse, caring for people in their own homes who have chronic, acute and terminal illnesses. I have continued with my clinical work which ensures that I am up to date with current nursing practice and I currently work as a bank nurse for a hospice at home service.

26 years ago, I established and developed Shipston Home Nursing, Hospice at Home. This is a charity, the aim of which is to provide "hands-on" specialised palliative care to patients in the community. The service provides nursing care to people at home and involves close liaison with General Practitioners, District Nurses, Macmillan Nurses and local hospitals/hospices. I developed training programmes for the nurses who work for the service. I have been involved in setting up policies and protocols within Primary and Palliative Care Teams, community hospitals and hospices to develop and enhance care for terminally ill patients and their families. I have continued to update myself on current issues in palliative care. I was a trustee for this service for 20 years and a member of the executive management group, overseeing delivery and quality of service. I also acted as the Nominated Individual for this service, a role which has responsibility for ensuring compliance with the regulations set out by the Care Quality Commission. My duties involved regular supervision of the service and quality control. I have worked alongside health providers and hospice at home organisations in South Warwickshire.

Over the past 26 years, I have developed a special interest and knowledge in cancer care and industrial respiratory diseases. I have written care reports for the Court on several hundred people whose health has been affected by malignancy, respiratory illnesses and asbestos-related disease. I have also prepared many reports on the care needs of their dependants, both children and adults, whose conditions have ranged from mobility problems, learning difficulties, multiple sclerosis, dementia, and brain

injury. This list is not exhaustive. I have been instructed as an expert by both claimants and defendants and have been appointed a single joint expert. I have given oral evidence in the High Court. I have lectured counsel and solicitors on palliative care, cancer care and asbestos-related cases as well as care for dependants of those who have succumbed to such conditions.