

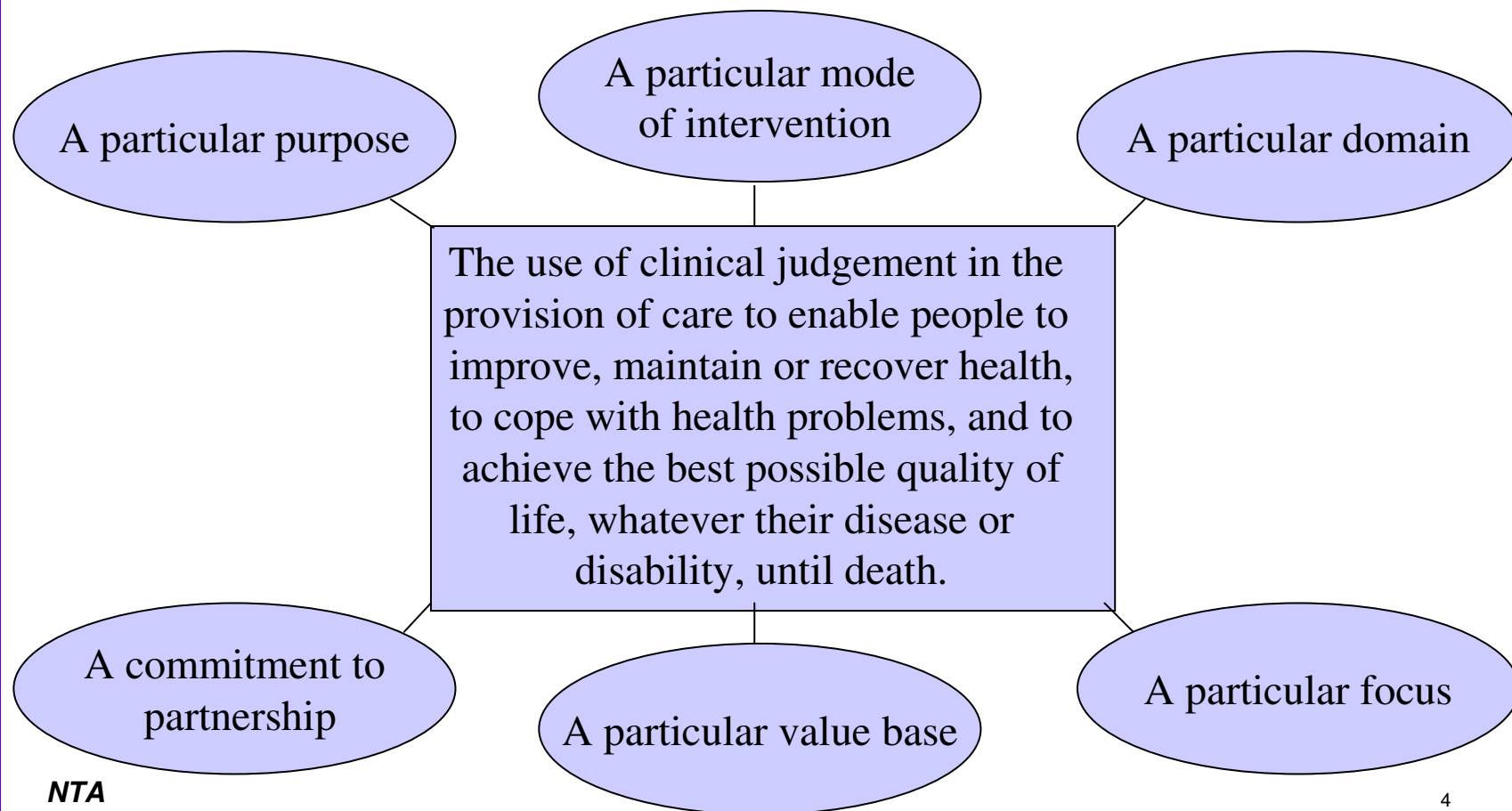
The role of the Nurse in substance misuse

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- **The role of the nurse**
- **The role of the nurse in substance misuse:**
 - **Where have we been?**
 - **Where are we now?**
 - **Where are we going?**

The role of the nurse

– RCN definition



- **The role of the nurse – Mike Bell definition:**
 - **Nurses are hands on**
 - **Nurses assess individual need and harness individual strengths**
 - **Nurses work within identifiable domains.**
 - **Nurses work in teams**
 - **Nurses are accountable for their own actions**

- **Some personal reflections on the pitfalls of ‘holisticism’**

- **Nurses in substance misuse**
Where have we been?

- **‘I solemnly declare that I have seen or known of fatal accidents, such as suicides in delirium tremens, bleedings to death, dying patients dragged out of bed by drunken medical staff corps men and many other things less patent and striking, which would not have happened in London Civil Hospitals nursed by women.’**

- **Where are we now?**

- **Scottish effective interventions unit study, 2004.**
Nurses have:
 - **key role as gatekeepers to services**
 - **key role in assessment and care planning**
 - **key role in partnership to meet holistic need**
 - **key understanding of the needs of poly-drug users**
 - **important role in clinical decision making**

- **What does the orange book (Clinical guidelines) say?**

‘Nurses work in many different settings and have many different approaches.... Their skills and techniques range from assessment of drug misusers, counselling, carrying out other treatment procedures, to health education and teaching. Their clinical and treatment role in drug misuse is as varied as it is essential’.

- **The changing workforce**

- **The NTA workforce figures show :**

	Jan – Mar 04	Jan – Mar 05	Oct 05 – Mar 06
Nurses	1661	1879	1465
Criminal Justice	958	1293	1533
Total workforce	13487	14750	14575

- **Should nurses be worried by this?**
 - **too early to say, data is not accurate enough and its only a recent trend**
 - **If it is a consequence of the changing and expanding workforce, it is an unintended one (by the NTA) and will be monitored**

- **Where are we going?**

- **What does the Models of Care Update have to say about nursing?**

- **Nurses professional structure**

- **Nurses will continue to form the backbone of the ‘keyworker’ role:**

‘Their studied, tried and tested and hands on approach is ideally suited to meeting client needs, especially in the more intensive, tier three/four interventions.’

- **‘Nurses will continue to play a vital role in care planning, since it is integral to their training.’**

- **Nurses play an essential part in the delivery of effective prescribing. In the future this is likely to include prescribing itself, as well as assessment, administration and monitoring**

- **Nurses career structure means they can expect to continue to play a key role in service management**

- **Nurses specialisms are ideally suited to meeting the needs of substance misusers in, for example Mental Health (Dual Diagnosis), Midwifery, Health Visiting and A&E**

- **The MOC update emphasizes the need for a ‘reinvigoration of harm reduction in all tiers of drug treatment’ and with particular regard for BBVs, immunisations, and wound care**

- **In order to achieve this, it specifically states that nurses should at least provide supervision for harm minimisation and ideally be based in services**

- **Summary**
 - **Nurses have played a vital role in helping people with substance misuse problems and will continue to do so**
 - **Nurses can expect change**
 - **There is explicit demand for them to continue, and to expand their involvement from the NTA**

- **Discussion points**

- **How can nurses in substance misuse get more organized, more cohesive and have more of a voice?**
- **What will nurses do to make sure clients receive all they have to offer with regard to harm minimization?**
- **Are nurses ready to implement dynamic collaborative care plans which constantly challenge?**
- **Are nurses flexible enough to adapt to changing need?**