

## Christian Science Nursing Arts Training

The foundation for Christian Science nursing is securely established in the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy. The standard for Christian Science nursing is set forth by Mrs. Eddy in the *Church Manual* By-law (Article VIII, Sect. 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.”

This By-law is a deep spiritual guide to the members of The Mother Church, available for all to draw on. For individuals representing themselves as Christian Science nurses, prayerful and thoughtful consideration of the requirements Mrs. Eddy established in this By-law is fundamental.

Christian Science Nursing Arts (CSNA) training provides an opportunity for individuals to look more deeply into the By-law and to see its relevance to their own demonstration and practice of Christian Science. The training supports individuals’ growth in meeting all of the *Manual* By-law requirements and in the expression of the qualities of the nurse that our Leader specifies (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, 395:17-20). In the classroom and in mentored instruction, ethics, sound judgment, principles, and skills are taught, demonstrated, and practiced on this foundation. The mentored portion of the course follows each classroom segment of a course in order to help ensure a continuing, sound practice of Christian Science nursing in accord with the nursing arts taught in the classroom and in keeping with the *Manual* By-law requirements. Training provides an avenue and support to ensure a demonstrated readiness to respond compassionately to the needs of mankind. It supports the individual in learning the art of ministering to one’s neighbor and his needs with Christian Science nursing.

The following are courses included in a complete Christian Science nurses training program for those representing themselves as Christian Science nurses:

***Christian Science Nursing Arts I: Introductory Christian Science Nursing Arts (CSNA I)***

4 weeks in the classroom followed by 6 weeks of on-the-job mentored instruction

***Christian Science Nursing Arts II: Basic Christian Science Nursing Arts (CSNA II)***

6 weeks in the classroom followed by 9 to 12 months of on-the-job mentored instruction

***Christian Science Nursing Arts III: Advanced Christian Science Nursing Arts (CSNA III)***

6 weeks in the classroom followed by 9 to 12 months of on-the-job mentored instruction

***Christian Science Nursing Arts IV: Supervisory Christian Science Nursing Arts (CSNA IV)***

5 weeks in the classroom followed by 8 to 12 months of on-the-job mentored instruction

## Description of Christian Science Nursing Arts Courses

The *Church Manual* By-Law “Christian Science Nurse,” is foundational to and embraces the Christian Science Nursing Arts training. Christian Science nurses work closely with the *Manual* By-Law and the qualities of the nurse specified by our Leader (in *Science and Health*) as they grow in their understanding of introductory, basic, advanced, and supervisory Christian Science nursing arts.

### *CSNA I: Introductory Christian Science Nursing Arts\**

The CSNA I course addresses the high standard of Christian Science nursing and the ethics needed for its right practice. Christian Science nursing arts principles are taught along with practical skills and qualities essential for ministering to the patient and providing light assistance with care regarding the needs of nourishment, cleanliness, comfort, mobility, communication, rest, and surroundings.

The following are among some of the skills included in this course, taught at an introductory level: skills for assisting with lifting and moving and working with mobility aids; preparing meals with simple modifications and assisting with feeding; skills for bed-making and care for the patient’s surroundings; skills for assisting with bathing and other personal care needs; ethics and the art of reading to and communicating with the patient.\*\*

**\*\* Note:** The ability to read, write, and speak English comprehensively is necessary for participation in the CSNA classes and for completing the CSNA courses which are presently taught in English. The art of reading aloud from the Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, the other writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and the Christian Science periodicals is also necessary to the ministry of Christian Science nursing. Support and necessary classes or tutoring that is needed in these areas for the individual Christian Science nurse will be the responsibility of the individual Christian Science nursing organization or service where the Christian Science nurse is taking the mentored portion of the courses.

### *CSNA II: Basic Christian Science Nursing Arts\**

The CSNA II course continues to address the art of ministering to the patient and his needs of cleanliness, comfort, communication, rest, activity and mobility, nourishment and surroundings when there is a need for up to full assistance with care. It addresses patient care at this level in the facility or home setting. The skills expand beyond introductory Christian Science nursing arts to include more extensive modifications of nourishment, fuller assistance with feeding, full assistance with lifting, moving, and turning, and skills for providing more extensive assistance with personal care. The course includes ministering to the patient and all his needs when receiving care in bed.

*CSNA II* continues to address the standard of excellence needed in the practice of Christian Science nursing. Ethics, skills, and judgment are taught in relation to the practice of basic Christian Science nursing arts. The requirement for a “demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice” remains essential to the individual’s preparation for and representation of Christian Science nursing.

### *CSNA III: Advanced Christian Science Nursing Arts\**

In the CSNA III course, the individual's practice of the basic Christian Science Nursing Arts expands to embrace the advanced Christian Science nursing arts. Christian Science nurses continue to apply foundational principles as they go forward in this course. Like the two previous courses, this course addresses the art of ministering to the patient and his needs of cleanliness, comfort, communication, rest, activity and mobility, nourishment, and his surroundings.

This course also addresses principles, ethics, and skills for cleansing and bandaging. The course brings focused attention to ethics, judgment, and care in responding to the needs of children. Along with a continued focus on ministering to our fellow man, the course addresses principles and ethics requisite for a safe, compassionate, and practical initial and follow-up response to those presented with sudden needs. This course continues to address the standard of excellence needed in the practice of Christian Science nursing. Ethics, skills, and judgment are taught in relation to the advanced arts. Strong demands are made on the Christian Science nurse for "a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice" in the continued preparation for and representation of Christian Science nursing.

### *CSNA IV: Supervisory Christian Science Nursing Arts\**

In the CSNA IV course, the individual's practice of the basic and advanced Christian Science nursing arts is strengthened as the supervisory nursing arts are embraced. Christian Science nurses continue to apply foundational Christian Science nursing arts principles as they go forward in this course. As in all of the Christian Science Nursing Arts courses, *CSNA IV* addresses the art of ministering to the patient and his needs regarding cleanliness, comfort, communication, rest, activity/mobility, nourishment, and surroundings. A strong focus in this course is given to principles and ethics needed in the overseeing of patient care. The training helps Christian Science nurses prepare for the roles and responsibilities of management and supervisory positions and ensuring oversight both in field and facility settings, along with a continued emphasis on a readiness to respond to the needs of all mankind in one's individual practice.

*CSNA IV* continues to address the standard of excellence needed in the practice of Christian Science nursing. Ethics, principles, skills, and judgment are taught in relation to the supervisory Christian Science nursing arts. Strong demands continue to be made on the Christian Science nurse for "a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice" in the preparation for and representation of Christian Science nursing. *CSNA IV* addresses the demonstrated readiness one needs to represent oneself as a Christian Science nurse.

**\* Note:** Although the CSNA classroom training does address compliance with legal and accreditation requirements, its classroom training does not substitute for the individual Christian Science nursing organization or service's responsibility for yearly or periodic training to meet accreditation and/or legal compliance. And although the CSNA training addresses principles, ethics, judgment, and skills for caring for those presented with sudden needs in relation to the subjects and care addressed at the respective CSNA level, it remains the responsibility of the individual Christian Science nursing organization or service to address this subject in relation to the specific individual needs of patients receiving care from these organizations. It is also the responsibility of the individual Christian Science nursing organization or service to address specific legal, accreditation, or organizational policy requirements that may be applicable to that organization or service regarding official First Aid training.

## Classroom and Mentored Instruction

The Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association (BA), Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, offers the classroom and on-the-job mentored instruction as described here. In reviewing applications for courses, we give consideration to the specific avenue chosen for the mentored instruction period required in each course. To locate an on-the-job training program that is in conjunction with Christian Science Nursing Arts Training, please contact the Director of Christian Science Nurses Training at the BA.

## Tuition and other Charges

Tuition for each course is based on the number of weeks of classroom instruction in the course. For the current information on charges, please see the flier “Course Schedule/Costs.”

### Financial Aid

Financial aid resources are available in support of Christian Science nurses pursuing training.

### Room and board charges

Individuals may rent a room at the BA while working and/or training here. Arrangements may also be made for taking meals here. For more detail about the charges see “Course Schedule/Costs.”

### *For further information, please contact:*

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*Or visit the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Association website:* [www.chbenevolent.org](http://www.chbenevolent.org)

**Christian Science Nursing Arts is a copyrighted curriculum supporting Christian Science nurses training (Copyright 2002-2011).** The instructors acknowledge the indispensable place of the Bible and the writings of Mary Baker Eddy in the training of Christian Science nurses. The individual’s study, prayer, and practice of Christian Science and the guidance of the textbooks of Christian Science (see Article IV, Section 1, *Church Manual*, by Mary Baker Eddy) are essential to a right preparation and representation of Christian Science nursing. The instructors are committed to the fact that the representation of the By-law requirements also deserves an avenue for a comprehensive and proven practice of Christian Science nursing that the Christian Science Nursing Arts courses provide.