

Visit to Zambia January 2017

An excellent week was recently enjoyed in January 2017, by FoAN and FoAN Canada working together to assist the perioperative nurses special interest group (ZOTNIG) of Zambia to devise standards of practice. A group of 19 senior nurses from hospitals all around Zambia as well as the perioperative schools of nursing was gathered together in Ndeke Hotel, Lusaka for a week of hard work, their presence had been co-ordinated by Judith Munthali, chairperson of ZOTNIG and their hospital release enabled by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

The programme allows for a short presentation on each topic to remind delegates of international best practice. These were delivered by three facilitators from FoAN UK; Kate, Stephanie and Sally and they were joined by Mary Knight from FoAN Canada. Judith helped by delivering one of the sessions on the local amendments and plans for the roll out of the WHO surgical checklist to operating theatres across Zambia. It was wonderful to have such a full team to assist with the presentations, but especially to help facilitate the group work. Each standard was devised by a small group of nurses with input from us as necessary, the initial work was then amended by the whole group so that the best possible standard could be devised and approved by everyone.



Hand Hygiene Demonstration with Mary and Stephanie



Group work, devising standards for practice

Gifts from Canada



Amendments and additions being made



Group work



Homework! Typing up the standards

Each day we would work well into the evening, typing up the standards that had been devised and agreed by the group – so that they could make any final amendments the following day. At the end of Friday we were able to complete 20 standards for practice, all of which had been agreed, referenced and made into a workable book. The standards, it was agreed would be reviewed in 2019.

The work was presented to the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, with a short visit on Friday. He was delighted and invited us back to assist in devising some further standards. The Nursing Directorate are interested in FoAN's Leadership programme and will look for some funds to assist us.

Feedback comments from the evaluations in answer to the questions *What have you enjoyed?*
Included:-

The commitment to work as a team and all the hard work to formulate perioperative standards; the lectures were detailed and had the required content; the facilitators were knowledgeable and delivered the relevant material.

The fact that I participated in the making of standards has made me happy. Even the whole workshop was great.

What will you do differently as a result of this course?

We will definitely be guided by the guidelines and thus improving patient care in the theatres; we will have evidence- based practice as we do our work.

Surgical count- instead of just counting small instruments, swabs and needles, I will be counting all instruments in the set; Warming fluids and blood prior to infusion especially in winter to keep the patient warm. Debriefing at all times.

Work using set standards; do a lot of teaching to colleagues at local work places.

Thanks to a generous airline baggage allowance, FoAN was able to give each delegate a text book with their attendance certificate and eye protection. Thanks to everyone who travelled for their enthusiasm, assistance and hard work. Thanks also to each of the delegates who also worked hard for a great outcome! Thanks Judith for all your organisation and support.



Kate and Judith

Kate Woodhead

February 2017