

## Structure

1. Introduction
2. Philosophy
3. Qualification and Competencies for
  - 3.1 Entrance into Endoscopy
  - 3.2 Entrance to Endoscopy Specialist Training
4. Knowledge and Responsibilities
5. Position Description
6. National Society and National Representatives in the Working Party

## 1. Introduction

Over the last 20 years, endoscopy has become an essential tool in diagnosis and therapy. Parallel to technical developments and the specialisation of physicians, endoscopy nursing has been developed as a discipline with highly qualified nursing and assistance tasks working alongside the endoscopist. Endoscopy nurses work within a multidisciplinary team both in hospital and general practice / primary care.

The scope of endoscopy nurses' practice varies from country to country. In some countries, the field of Endoscopy nursing includes not only e.g. gastroenterology endoscopy, but also thoracic medicine, urology, surgery, gynaecology, etc. In a second group of European countries, the focus is on the subject Gastroenterology. Consequently the nurses' work not only includes Endoscopy, but also Stoma care, PEG, nutrition, IBD, in- and out patient care in gastroenterology, etc.

Whereas job profiles have been established in some European countries, the structure and content varies from one country to another. Therefore, the European Society of Gastroenterology

and Endoscopy Nurses and Associates (ESGENA) has developed a European job profile for endoscopy nursing in order

- to offer clear and structured information about the endoscopy nursing
- to promote the discussions in the membership countries concerning endoscopy nursing as a recognised speciality
- to offer a structure for the development of national specific profiles.

Furthermore the European job profile will be used as a basis for the development of a European core curriculum.

## 2. Philosophy

- a) The Endoscopy nurse is a specialist nurse whose goal is to provide optimal care and thereby enhance the quality of life of patients undergoing diagnostic or therapeutic endoscopy procedures. This is accomplished as a member of a multidisciplinary health care team whose practice is governed by ethics and professional codes of conduct, the patient's needs being the primary focus of all concerns. (Safe practices for gastrointestinal endoscopy; BSG 1989)
- b) Every patient undergoing a diagnostic or therapeutic endoscopy has the right to be treated by a qualified nurse, trained in the field of endoscopy care.
- c) The Endoscopy nurse is responsible for ensuring individualised, holistic patient care.
- d) Health education is an integral part of the endoscopy nurse's role, with the emphasis on prevention, screening, education and support.
- e) The endoscopy nurse has the responsibility for updating her/his knowledge by undertaking continuing education in order to provide evidence based practice.

### Corresponding Author

U. Beilenhoff · Ferdinand-Sauerbruch-Weg 16 · 89075 Ulm · Germany · Fax: +49-731-9503959 ·  
E-mail: UK-Beilenhoff@t-online.de

### Bibliography

Endoscopy 2004; 36 (11): 1025–1030 © Georg Thieme Verlag KG Stuttgart · New York · ISSN 0013-726X  
DOI 10.1055/s-2004-825963

### 3. Qualification and Competencies

**Table 1** Competencies. A specialist nurse is a nurse formally educated and practically trained beyond the level of generalist nurse and authorised to practice as a specialist nurse with advance expertise in a branch of nursing<sup>1</sup>. The specialised practice includes advance nursing and/or clinical skills and related tasks, advisory, research, teaching and administrative activities in the field of the speciality.

Competencies	Essential
Qualification	Qualified nurse after a formal period of education and training (including 3 years, 4600 hours) <sup>2</sup> .
3.1 Entrance/Employment into Endoscopy Nursing	The qualified nurse is able to work in Endoscopy after passing the basic nurse education. It is recommended that she/he has a minimum of one year experience in general nursing <sup>3</sup> .
Technical skills at Entrance/Employment into Endoscopy Nursing	Endoscopy nurses require a high level of technical skills. New recruits require the aptitude and ability to understand and undertake complex technical tasks.
Interpersonal skills at Entrance/Employment into Endoscopy Nursing	Endoscopy nursing is characterised by short, but intensive contact with patients. Endoscopy nurses work in an ambulatory setting. Therefore they should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– be able to work independently or as part of a multi-disciplinary team.</li> <li>– have a high level of communicative and organisational skills.</li> </ul>
3.2. Entrance into Endoscopy Specialist Training	Entry requirements for specialist nurse education in endoscopy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a minimum of one year experience after passing basic nurse education<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li>– a minimum of 6 months experience in the field of endoscopy.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Recommendations for Training in Nursing. Adversary Committee of training in Nursing (ACTN).

<sup>2</sup> EU Directives 77/452/EEC.

<sup>3</sup> Framework for post basic nurse education. European Network of Nursing Organisations (ENNO) (11/2000).

- f) The Endoscopy nurse is a professional who is accountable for her/his actions.
- g) The Endoscopy nurse is a member of the multidisciplinary team and she/he acts as a patient's advocate within that team.

- The endoscopy nurse is responsible for the enhancement of co-operation within a multidisciplinary team, within the endoscopy department and within the employing institution.
- The endoscopy nurse is responsible for facilitating a safe environment for the benefit of herself/himself, the patients, colleagues and carers.
- The endoscopy nurse is responsible for maintaining a learning environment for the benefit of herself/himself, the patients, colleagues and carers.
- The endoscopy nurse is responsible for contributing to accurate and relevant record keeping.

### 4. Knowledge and Responsibilities

Endoscopy nurses perform a variety of functions. Their tasks and responsibilities cover the following areas (see Table 2):

- Holistic patient care
- Technical assistance during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- Care of endoscopic equipment
- Hygiene and infection control and prevention including re-processing of endoscopic equipment
- Documentation and record keeping
- Organisation and Clinical management
- Health and safety
- Legal and ethical aspects
- Research
- Health and disease education of patient and carers
- Education and training of staff
- Quality control

Outcome quality:

- The endoscopy nurse is responsible for a professional, holistic patient care in order to ensure patient's physical safety and psychological well-being before, during and after endoscopic procedure and to prevent any hazards or avoidable complications.
- The endoscopy nurse is responsible for professional and highly qualified technical assistance during endoscopic procedures.

### 5. Job Description

The national wage agreements do not always demand a written formulation of a job profile in every European country. Nevertheless, a job profile is an important instrument of quality assurance like nursing process, nursing standards and nursing documentation. The employee receives clear and structured information about the tasks and responsibilities of endoscopy nurses. This clarity increases the satisfaction in the job and enhances the efficiency and motivation. Unnecessary lack of information and confusion about responsibilities can be avoided.

A national job profile is the basis for department specific job descriptions. It describes the smallest unit of a department/company: the employment/job. It varies according to the practice setting and its organisational structures. The duties vary depending on the size and number of procedures performed.

(continued on page 6)

**Table 2** Specialist knowledge and responsibilities. The following table should show the specialist knowledge, tasks and responsibilities of a trained endoscopy nurse.

<b>Detailed knowledge, tasks and responsibilities</b>	<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Application</b>
Underpinning knowledge	Anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, relevant to endoscopic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures	Thorough understanding of the endoscopic procedure including indication, performance, risks and complications Distinguish normal and abnormal structures and functions of the examined organs
Holistic patient care in endoscopy	Nursing process applicable to endoscopic procedures  Standards for practice in endoscopy  Psychology  Pharmacology, IV therapy, anaesthesiology, resuscitation	Assessment, identification of individual problems, planning, delivery and evaluation of nursing care, appropriate to patients undergoing endoscopic procedures Optimal pre-, intra-, post-procedure care for each patient undergoing endoscopic procedures Physical preparation of the patient for endoscopic diagnostic or therapy, specific intra- and post-procedure care Provide psychological support before, during and after endoscopic procedures Monitoring of vital signs and assessment of patient's response to sedation before, during and after the procedure Identification of potential and actual complications related to a endoscopic procedure Appropriate response to the emergency situation
Holistic patient care in endoscopy	Health education and disease processes specific to conditions requiring diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy.	Patient information and education, counselling about follow-up care
Technical Assistance	Knowledge about the construction, function and application of endoscopes and endoscopic accessories, thorough understanding of the procedures Knowledge of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic procedures including purpose, indications, contra-indications, performance, risks and complications	Preparation and handling of instruments, equipment, including function testing and problem solving during use  Technical assistance during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
Care of endoscopic equipment	Knowledge about the construction, function, application and potential malfunction and hazards of endoscopic equipment Knowledge about guidelines, regulations, law, manufacturer's instructions of respective equipment	Competencies in equipment care Maintenance and storage of endoscopic equipment Maintenance, care, use and disposal of endoscopic equipment according to guidelines, regulations, laws and manufacturer's instructions
Hygiene and infection control	Principles of the decontamination process with special consideration – of the complex construction of endoscopic equipment – of the methods and agents used Infection risks in endoscopy Transmission of infection in endoscopy Potential risks to staff and patients during decontamination/ reprocessing of equipment	Decontamination and reprocessing of endoscopic equipment  Protection measures for staff, patients and environment
Documentation and record keeping	Nursing process applicable in endoscopic procedures Legal requirements for documentation Different formats and systems for documentation	Patient documentation: accurate documentation and record of patient's activities and individual patient care Equipment documentation: accurate documentation and record of use, reprocessing, maintenance and tracability Department documentation: take part in accurate documentation of departmental audit
Organisation, Clinical Management	Basic principles of clinical management specific to endoscopy  Professional accountability relevant to endoscopic practice	Time management of allocated work load, scheduling procedures, setting clinical priorities Appropriate use of initiatives conform with quality standards set locally, nationally and by professional nursing bodies work within the boundaries of education, training and experience
Professional development	Continuous update in the endoscopy field, general nursing and health care	Remain clinically effective in practice
Health & Safety	Health & Safety concerns for patients & staff in endoscopy (Chemical, ergonomics, Latex, Radiology, Electrical/Diathermy, Lifting, hazardous substances, etc.)	Takes appropriate action to protect patients, self and other members of the team from potential harm
Legal, ethical aspects	Ethical, professional standards Guidelines, regulations, law relevant for general nursing and endoscopy nursing	Provide patient care within legal and ethical limits Act within boundaries of code of nursing conduct
Research	Data collection, documentation, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation of publications	Provide evidence based practice Maintain and evaluate professional standards Participation in clinical research (trial study, testing new instruments, evaluation effectiveness of care and treatment)
Education and teaching of staff	Basic Pedagogy, learning and teaching methods	Maintaining clinical competencies through ongoing education Teaching and training of new staff within the endoscopy setting
Health and disease education of patient and carers	Principles of health education Disease process relevant to conditions requiring endoscopy	Provision of appropriate health and disease education to patients, their relatives and families and health care providers

The job profile does not address the specific needs, knowledge and skills of department leaders in endoscopy.

Table 3 National Society and National Representatives in the Working Party

Country	Name of Society	Permanent Secretariat/Contact Person Web site	National Representative in the working party
Austria	“Interessenverband Endoskopiepersonal Austria IVEPA” = Austrian Society of Endoscopic Nurses	Gerlinde Weilguny Allgemeines Krankenhaus der Stadt Wien Universitätsklinikum, Innere Medizin IV Währinger Gürtel 18–20, 1090 Wien, Austria Fax: +43-140400-4735 E-mail: gerlinde.Weilguny@akh-wien.ac.at web site: www.ivepa.at	Gerlinde Weilguny Wien, Austria Fax: + 43-140400-47 35 E-mail: gerlinde.Weilguny@akh-wien.ac.at
Belgium	“Association des Infirmier(e)s d’Endoscopie Vereniging van Endoscopie-verpleeg- kundigen (AIEVV)” = Association of Endoscopy Nurses in Belgium	Willy Claes, Vice-President UZ Gasthuisberg, Herestraat 49, 3000 Leuven, Belgium Fax: 0032 – 1634 – 8858 E-mail: Willy.Claes@zu.kuleuven.ac.be web site: www.aievv.be	Willy Devriese Endoscopie. St. Jan Hospital, Rudderhove, 8000 Brugge, Belgium E-mail: willydevriese@skynet.be
Croatia	“HRVATSKA UDRUGA MEDICINSKIH SESTARA-GASROENTEROLOŠKA SEKCIJA” = Croatian Nurses Association	Jadranka Brljak, President Division of Gastroenterology, Dept.of Internal Medicine, University Hospital Rebro Kipaticeva 12, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia Fax: + 385 1 24 21 844 E-mail: jadranka.brljak@zg.hinet.hr web site: www.hums.hr	Jadranka Brljak, President University Hospital Rebro Kipaticeva 12, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia Fax: + 385 1 24 21 844 E-mail: jadranka.brljak@zg.hinet.hr
Czech Republic	“Sekce Sester Digestivni Endoskopie Pri Cges” = Czech Nurses Group Working in Degestive Endoscopy	Ludmila Pavlatová KCUL – Clinical Centre Úked Charles University Hospital, Endoscopy Unit 2nd Dept. of Medicine, Building 22 500 05 Hradec Králové, Czech Republic Fax: + 42 0 49 583 2003 E-mail: pavlatova@fnhk.cz web site: www.1fhk.cuni.cz/kcvl/stransky/ END-UNIT/endunit1.htm	Ludmila Pavlatová KCUL – Clinical Centre Úked Charles University Hospital, Endoscopy Unit 2nd Dept. of Medicine, Building 22 500 05 Hradec Králové, Czech Republic Fax: + 42 0 49 583 2003 E-mail: pavlatova@fnhk.cz
Denmark	“Gastro-Endoskopi Forening for sygeplejersker” = Gastroenterology-Endoscopy Society of Nurses	Margit Rytikøen Birkegårdsvej 2, Asserbo 3300 Frederiksværk Denmark E-mail: dko3299@vipcity.dk web site: www.gastroendoskopi.dk	Mette Strudsholm-Sørensen Kommunehospital, Aarhus, Denmark E-mail: strudsholm@get2net.dk Mette Olesen Hilcord Fax: 004548294902
Finland	“Suomen Gastroenterologiahoitajat Ry.” = Finish Gastroenterological Nurses Association	Eeva-Riitta Ylinen Department of Medicine / 4381 Kuopio University Hospital, P.O. Box 1777, 70 211 Kuopio, Finland Fax: +38517173449 E-mail: eeva-riitta.ylinen@pp.inet.fi web site: www.ge-hoitajat.org	Eeva-Riitta Ylinen Department of Medicine / 4381 Kuopio University Hospital, P.O. Box 1777, 70 211 Kuopio, Finland Fax: + 38517173449 E-mail: eeva-riitta.ylinen@pp.inet.fi
France	“Groupment Infermieres Formation Endoscopie Digestive (GIFE)” = French Society of Endoscopy Nurses and Associates	Ms. Magali Beutrais GIFE-Secretariat-Administrativ 19, dis rue Hauteville F-35440 Montreuil/Ille Fax: +33299696492 E-mail: gife.secretariat@wanadoo.fr web site www.infirmieres-gife.org	Dianelle Duforest-Rey Saint-Laurent-Du-Var, France E-mail: dianelle.rey@wanadoo.fr Hélène Desirat Rambouillet, France E-mail: H.Desirat@ch-Rambouillet.fr
Great Britain	“British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG)” “Endoscopy Associates Group (EAG)”	Permanent Secretariat of BSG 3, St. Andrews Place Regents Park NW1 4LB London, UK Fax: + 442074873734 E-mail: BSG@mailbox.ulcc.ac.uk web site: www.bsg.org	Christiane S. Neumann c/o. Clinical Investigation Unit City Hospital NHS Trust Birmingham B18 7QH, United Kingdom Fax: + 441215075581 E-mail: Christiane.Neumann@cityhospbham. wmids.nhs.uk

National Society and National Representatives in the Working Party

Country	Name of Society	Permanent Secretariat/Contact Person Web site	National Representative in the working party
Germany	<p>“Deutscher Berufsverband für Pflegeberufe – Sektion Endoskopie (DBfK)” = German Nursing Association – Section Endoscopy</p> <p>“Deutscher Pflegeverband (DPV)” = German Association of Nursing Professionals – Section Endoscopy</p> <p>“Deutsche Gesellschaft für Endoskopie-assistenzpersonal (DEGEA)” = German Society of Endoscopy Assistant Staff</p>	<p>DBfK Bundesverband Geisbergstraße 39, 10777 Berlin, Germany Fax: 030 / 219157 – 77 E-mail: dbfk@dbfk.de web site: www.dbfk.de</p> <p>Deutscher Pflegeverband (DPV) Mittelstraße 1, 56564 Neuwied, Germany Fax: + 492631838820 E-mail: Deutscher_Pflegeverband_DPV@t-online.de web site: www.dpv-online.de</p> <p>Ute Pfeiffer Ev. Krankenhaus, Kirchkfeldstr. 40, 40217 Düsseldorf, Germany E-mail: degeacontact@aol.com web site: www.degea.de</p>	<p>Ulrike Beilenhoff Ferdinand-Sauerbruch-Weg 16 89075 Ulm Germany Fax: +497313503958 E-mail: UK-Beilenhoff@t-online.de</p>
Greece	<p>“ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΝΩΣΗ ΝΟΣΗΛΕΥΤΩΝ ΕΝΔΟΣΚΟΠΙΚΩΝ ΜΟΝΑΔΩΝ” = Hellenic Association of Endoscopy Nurses</p>	<p>Vassiliki Katsilaki Endoscopy Unit General Hospital of Alexandroupolis Makryianni 22, 68100 Alexandroupolis, Greece Fax: + 30 551 29 686 E-mail: katsilaki@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Vassiliki Katsilaki Endoscopy Unit General Hospital of Alexandroupolis Makryianni 22, 68100 Alexandroupolis, Greece Fax: + 30 551 33 331 E-mail: katsil@hol.gr</p>
Iceland	<p>“Innsýn” = Insight</p>	<p>Herdis Astrasdottir (President) Endoscopy Department Landspítali Uni. Hospital Borgargerd 5, 108 Reykjavik, Iceland Fax: +3545601298 E-mail: herdisa@landspitali.is</p>	<p>Herdis Astrasdottir (President) Endoscopy Department Landspítali Uni. Hospital Borgargerd 5, 108 Reykjavik, Iceland Fax: + 3545601298 E-mail: herdisa@landspitali.is</p>
Israel	<p>= Israeli Society of Gastroenterology Nurses (ISGEN)</p>	<p>Tova Podchlebnik, President of ISGEN Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center Institute of Gastroenterology 6 Weizman St., Tel-Aviv 64238, Israel Fax: + 972 3 69 74 460 E-mail: p-tova@internet-zahav.net</p>	<p>Gwen Kreitzman Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center Institute of Gastroenterology 6 Weizman St., Tel-Aviv 64238, Israel E-mail: gwen@inter.net.il</p>
Italy	<p>“Associazione Nazionale Operatori Techiche Endoscoche A.N.O.T.E.” = National Association of Operator Endoscopic Assistants</p>	<p>Mirco Tincani Endoscopia Digestiva Arcispedale Santa Maria Nuova Viale Risorgimento 80, 42100 Reggio Emilia, Italy, Fax: 0039 522 296406, E-mail: TINCANI@iol.it web site: www.anote.org</p>	<p>Patricia Burga Endoscopy, Hospital of Padova Via Bernardi 27, 35135 Padova, Italy E-mail: patbu@aste.com</p>
Luxembourg	<p>“Association Luxembourgeoise du Personnel en Endoscopie (ALPE)” = Luxembourgish Association of Endoscopy Personnel</p>	<p>Lorenz Rudkin, President, Centre Hospitalier Endoscopie Digestive 4, rue Barblé, 1210 Luxembourg, E-mail: alpe@chl.lu</p>	<p>Lorenz Rudkin, President, Centre Hospitalier Endoscopie Digestive 4, rue Barblé, 1210 Luxembourg, E-mail: Rudkin@pt.lu</p>
The Netherlands	<p>“Nederlandse Vereniging voor Gastro-Enterologie – Sectie Endoscopie Assistenten” = Dutch Society of Gastroenterology – Section Endoscopy Assistants (S.E.A.)</p>	<p>Marjon de Pater E-mail: marjon@depater.net web site: www.nvge-sevq.nl</p>	<p>Christine Petersen Amsterdam, The Netherlands E-mail: ChrPetersen@hetnet.nl Ton Mestrom Roermond, NL E-mail: TMestrom@cs.com</p>
Norway	<p>“Norsk Forening for Gastroenterologisk Personell (NFGP)” = Norwegian Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates</p>	<p>Anita Jorgensen Sykehuset Telemark Kletossveien 51 3710 Skien, Norway Fax: +4735004132 E-mail: anita.jorgensen@sthf.no</p>	<p>Anne Katrin Hartz, Oslo, Norway E-mail: akhartz-no@yahoo.com Anne-Ci Solhaug, Oslo, Norway Fax: +4722465577 Gunnhild Seim, Oslo, Norway Fax: +4722894008</p>

National Society and National Representatives in the Working Party

Country	Name of Society	Permanent Secretariat/Contact Person Web site	National Representative in the working party
Slovenia	“Zveza Medicinskih Sester Slovenije – Sekcija Endoskopskih Sester Slovenije (SES)” = Nurses Association of Slovenia – Section of Endoscopy Nurses of Slovenia	Stanka Popovic, University Medical Centre Ljubljana Department of Gastroenterologic Surgery Zaloka 7, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia E-mail: Stanka.popovic@siol.net web site: www.zveza-dmszts.si	Stanka Popovic, University Medical Centre Ljubljana Department of Gastroenterologic Surgery Zaloka 7, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia E-mail: Stanka.popovic@siol.net
Spain	“Asociación Española de Enfermería Endoscópica Digestiva” = Spanish Society of Endoscopy Nurses	Bolu-3 Servicios, S.L Pº de las Delicias, 136-2ºC 28 045-MADRID Spain web site: www.prous.com/aeeed	Pilar Pérez Rojo Endoscopy, University Clinic of Navarra Pio XII s/n, 31 008 Pamplona, Spain Fax: +34948296500 E-mail: Pperezrojo@unav.es
Sweden	“Svensk förening för Endoskopiassisterande Personal (SEGP)” = Swedish Association for Endoscopy Assistants	Solvig Ljungström Endoscopy Unit, Department of Surgery Danderyd Hospital, 182 88 Danderyd, Sweden Fax: + 4686557766 E-mail: solvig.ljungstrom@kir.ds.sll.se web site: www.segp.se	Solvig Ljungström Endoscopy Unit, Department of Surgery Danderyd Hospital, 182 88 Danderyd, Sweden Fax: +4686557766 E-mail: solvig.ljungstrom@kir.ds.sll.se
Expert			Di Campbell Torbay Hospital, Endoscopy Unit, Lawis Bridge Torquay TQ2 7AA, UK Fax: +44-1803-654896

Job descriptions should include a number of common elements:

- Title of the position
- Job qualifications (essential and desirable qualifications, experience required)
- Personal qualities and characteristics
- The person to whom the individual is responsible
- Incorporation of the employment into the structure of the hospital
- Connections and associations with other jobs of the department and the hospital

The job description gives detailed information about tasks and responsibilities concerning

- Holistic patient care
- Technical assistance during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- Care of endoscopic equipment
- Hygiene and infection control and prevention including re-processing of endoscopic equipment
- Documentation and record keeping
- Organisation and Clinical management
- Health and safety
- Legal and ethical aspects
- Research
- Health and disease education of patient and carers
- Education and training of staff
- The job description should have a statement of lines of responsibilities/communication.