



**MCAI** Maternal & Childhealth  
Advocacy International

Improving maternal & child  
healthcare worldwide

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## Request for volunteers to train nurses and midwives in Liberia to provide basic hospital care for new-born infants

Are you interested in a challenging but extremely rewarding role in Liberia training 9 senior local nurses or midwives and helping to provide a sustainable service delivery in basic hospital neonatal care?

For the last 3 years, MCAI has been undertaking a programme training senior midwives to undertake advanced obstetric care, including abdominal surgery such as Caesarean section: see [www.mcai.org.uk/liberia](http://www.mcai.org.uk/liberia)

This approach (termed task shifting) has been adopted in Liberia since it has hardly any doctors, in particular only 3 obstetricians and 2 paediatricians for a population of 4.3 million people; the lowest doctor/patient ratio in the world. In Liberia there is 1 doctor for 71,429 persons and in the UK the ratio is 1 doctor for 356 persons.

To date 11 senior midwives are being trained in advanced obstetric care (to become “Obstetric Clinicians”) and we have now received a grant from the World Health Organisation to extend the task-shifting approach to provide basic hospital care for new-born infants. This care will include the main issues of feeding, temperature regulation, infection detection and treatment, jaundice management and the care of those with respiratory failure (including nasal CPAP but not assisted ventilation). Low birth weight and preterm babies are common, and the special care needed for this group will also be established. We aim to teach in the first instance 9 senior nurses or midwives in 3 busy public hospitals in Liberia as there are too few doctors who can commit to continuing such care after training. The training course will last 1 year and involve a combination of apprenticeship-based ward care and small group tutorials.

The post is suitable for an advanced neonatal nurse practitioner, a general paediatrician, or a ST4 to ST7 trainee paediatrician interested in working in a challenging West African country with a key role in delivering the educational programme and supporting clinical services. The post could comprise job-sharing and minimum periods in Liberia of 2-3 months at one time.

If you are interested in this work please contact me for more information. Basic, secure accommodation close to the hospitals, high quality travel/medical insurance and a license to practice through the Liberian Medical and Dental Council will be provided. Flights and a daily subsistence allowance may be available depending on circumstances.

Thank you for your attention and please help by spreading this notice as widely as possible to anybody or any organisation you think may be suitable and interested.

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