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## MODERNISING NURSING CAREERS

# Progress report

There is a lot of work going on under the banner of modernising nursing careers. Following is just a snapshot of some of the projects currently under way.

### Skills passport

The pilot project to develop and test an electronic verified record of an individual's skills competencies and experiences was first mentioned in the April issue of this bulletin. Since then, the Modernising Nursing Careers (MNC) team has been overwhelmed by the number of responses to their request for interested teams or organisations to take part in the pilot.

'It's clear that readers support this exciting development and the project is now fully under way,' says MNC Programme Director Chris Caldwell.

Project leads at Skills for Health have worked



with nurses to develop a uniquely tailored electronic passport tool. Pilot sites have been identified in all 10 SHAs to test the tool and leads at the sites are about to begin training in how to

use it. The pilot will kick off in the autumn.

'It is very early days and there are still a number of issues to resolve, so further developments will be made as the pilot progresses,' says Chris.

'However, we hope to have initial feedback on how the tool has been received before the end of this year.'

### Mapping the career framework

Learning disability nursing is one of the four pathways that has been selected as a focus for the pilot mapping work being undertaken to further develop the nursing career framework.

'The DH is working with nurses and educators from a range of different organisations across England to critically examine current and potential future roles for nurses and debate what the career pathways for

nurses working in learning disabilities might be,' says Chris.

'The initial mapping workshop was incredibly positive and dynamic – despite the very real challenges learning disability nurses face – and creative approaches were used to build up a detailed picture of participants' perspectives. This picture has been shared more widely with SHA learning disability nursing leaders, most of whom agreed with its content.'

Participants in all four pilot pathways – including cancer nursing, children and young people and health visiting – agree that roles, and the

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## MODERNISING NURSING CAREERS

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education that underpins them, need to be standardised across the whole of nursing. They also want to see:

- more support for the different levels of nursing roles
- a pathway approach to career mapping and progression
- increased focus on the values and attributes required for different roles as well as the qualifications experience and competencies.

Specific issues for learning disability nursing were around role dimension – the extent to which nurses work in health or social care and how much of their role should be about direct care



giving compared with wider liaison and consultancy work.

'There appear to be considerable opportunities for career development for experienced learning disability nurses (read the profile on [page 5](#)). However, role consolidation and the early career pathway are

less straightforward,' says Chris.

'In some cases, nurses move outside the NHS to work on their learning disability qualifications because they feel there are limited opportunities for preceptorship and for skills development within the NHS, or the health care sector in general.'

### Engaging frontline staff

The engagement plan aims to get frontline nurses more involved in implementing the

changes needed to modernise nursing careers.

Listening events – led by Suzie Loader and Pauline Watts from the MNC team – have been taking place in a number of SHAs to get your feedback on current challenges and to develop local engagement plans to meet the individual requirements of each region.

So far, sessions have happened in South Central, East of England, East Midlands, South East Coast and the North East. Future events are planned for South Central and the North West in September and the South West in October.

'We're looking to raise people's awareness

of the practical, operational implications around modernising nursing careers and to generate a problem-solving approach to addressing issues locally,' says Pauline.

'These sessions are also an opportunity to share new ideas, and examples of best practice and feedback from the most frequently asked questions will be posted on the new MNC website, which will be hosted on the High Quality Care for All website and will go live later this year.'

The engagement strategy has now been approved by SHA nurse directors and the MNC Project Board.

### Links and info

- For more information on Modernising Nursing Careers, email: Chris Caldwell at [chris.caldwell@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.caldwell@dh.gsi.gov.uk), Suzie Loader at [suzie.loader@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:suzie.loader@dh.gsi.gov.uk), or Pauline Watts at [pauline.watts@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.watts@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

**'The DH is working with nurses and educators to critically examine current and potential future roles for nurses.'**

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## VOICEPIECE – RESPONDING TO THE FLU PANDEMIC

# The swine flu vaccination programme

**The NHS has responded well to the outbreak of swine flu and nurses have dealt with the situation with great professionalism. After the rapid increase in cases before the school holidays, the numbers of people with suspected swine flu have now dropped.**

With a potential surge of cases in the autumn, we cannot be complacent and must ensure that this level of response is maintained and services are prepared. We are working with nurses, doctors and administrative staff at every level of the NHS, and with the National Pandemic Flu Service, to make sure that detailed operational planning continues.



As we move into the autumn, a new vaccination programme will be launched to further help combat the pandemic.

However, the nature of the work frontline nurses do means they – and their patients – are even more vulnerable to infection. It is for these reasons that frontline health professionals have been prioritised among the first wave to receive the vaccine.

The vaccination is voluntary, but I would urge you to consider the benefits to you, your colleagues and your patients in receiving it. I know that nurses balance out risks and responsibilities on a daily basis and, in an age where a large amount of information is readily available, it is critical that as professionals we ensure our decisions are evidence based.

I understand there are some concerns within the profession about this proposed programme.

Appropriate trials to assess the safety and the immune responses have been carried out on the vaccines. We expect it to be licensed for use by the European Medicines Agency next month, following the agency's strict processes for licensing pandemic vaccines. The vaccination programme for frontline health workers and others at high risk of infection will start shortly after.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work

in responding to the outbreak of swine flu. This winter, with the extra pressure of pandemic flu, has the potential to be a particularly difficult one. However, the NHS and the nursing profession have a proud record of rising to the occasion during difficult times. I am confident that, faced with the challenge of a major pandemic, we will see the best side of the profession again.

**'The vaccination is voluntary, but I would urge you to consider the benefits to you, your colleagues and your patients in receiving it.'**

### Links and info

- Access the latest guidance on the DH website
- Access the vaccination information on the DH website

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## Links and info

- Read more about National Network of Learning Disability Nurses

## IN PROFILE: LEARNING DISABILITY NURSING

# Striving for equality and inclusion

**Daniel Marsden is Practice Development Nurse for patients with learning disabilities at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.**

### What is your job all about?

Hospital services can appear daunting and complex to people with learning disabilities. My role is to help them get the best from the Trust's services by making the organisation easier to understand. One way I do this is by providing clinical support and advice to staff to make it easier for them to deliver personalised care based on patient needs.

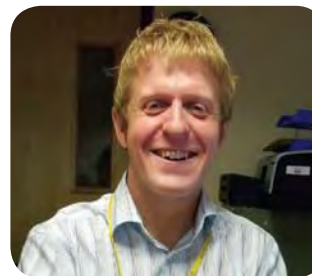
### How did you get into this role?

I trained as a learning disability nurse and spent my early career working in community learning disability teams. In 2001,

I was studying for a BSc in Community Nursing around the same time the DH published its White Paper on people with learning disabilities, *Valuing People*. It recommended that specialist nurses ought to spend more time supporting mainstream health services in working with people with learning disabilities. I was inspired to take a post in Medway, splitting time between clinical and services development work for the learning disability partnership board, working with GPs and hospital services.

### Can you give an example of how your role has helped a patient?

Some of the most common issues people with learning disabilities have are around communication and



Daniel Marsden.

consent. I recently worked with local learning disability user group, Being Seen Being Heard, to raise staff awareness of these issues. A member of the group produced a care plan that had been handwritten for him, and it was illegible – no one could understand it. Sharing this experience highlighted how healthcare can disable the people we provide services for.

### What are some of the challenges of the role?

The Trust has 7,000 staff in three hospitals, so it's a

huge task to raise awareness on that scale. Recently the Care Quality Commission set some important goals, which call for the Trust to work with stakeholders, patients and carers to make improvements like easier-to-read information, staff training and supporting the needs of carers. The Trust board has now approved an ambitious work plan based on these goals.

### What's the best bit about your job?

Involving people with learning disabilities in the development of services is the part I most enjoy. The Trust is part of the DH's Pacesetters Programme, which allows local communities to test new ways of delivering equality and diversity improvements. Our project was to develop and pilot an easy-to-read

menu, and I enjoyed working with staff, people with learning disabilities, carers and community professionals to do this. Staff have suggested that the menus can also help patients, such as those with dementia, make their own decisions about the hospital food they eat.

### What advice would you give to a nurse who's interested in this area?

Networking is vital if you are to learn from other people's experiences and share best practice. There are some great networks out there, including those associated with the National Network of Learning Disability Nurses. Always consider how the people you are trying to help can contribute to your work. People with learning disabilities can help mainstream health services improve the patient experience for everyone.

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## Links and info

- Email Susan Allott, Valuing People Support Team
- Download *Valuing employment now*

## VALUING EMPLOYMENT NOW

# Real jobs for people with learning disabilities

*Valuing employment now, the cross-Government learning disability employment strategy, sets out a commitment to ensuring people with learning disabilities have all the support they need to find and stay in work.*

**The aim of the strategy is to close the employment rate gap between people with learning disabilities and disabled people generally by providing as many real jobs of at least 16 hours a week as possible.**

The NHS is the country's biggest employer and has



committed to ensure that people with learning disabilities are represented within its workforce. The DH will continue to work with SHAs, the NHS Confederation and NHS Employers to increase the number of people with learning disabilities employed in the NHS. Healthcare and social

care commissioners should build an expectation of work for adults with learning disabilities into contracts for support providers. This will develop their key role in encouraging people to think about work and get the advice they need, and ultimately help people with learning disabilities move into the labour market.

The NHS also has a key role to play in the way our society forms expectations of people with learning disabilities. Parents have told us of the pressure they feel when they are told their child has a learning disability. Support is being given to frontline NHS staff, such as midwives and health visitors, to ensure they can give a

positive message to parents.

Other measures in the strategy include:

- four hundred employment job opportunities offered across the Department for Work and Pensions, including Jobcentre Plus
- Jobcentre Plus staff will continue to be trained to support disabled people into work
- coaches will support people with learning disabilities to retain paid employment
- all Government departments will have guidance to target people with learning disabilities in recruitment campaigns
- schools and colleges will receive support in preparing people with learning disabilities with career skills.

## Help turn the strategy into action

Project Search provides internships with host employers for people with learning disabilities.

The Office for Disability Issues is inviting organisations to submit proposals to become Project Search sites from September 2010. The programme is

already operating in Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, and the Royal United Hospital in Bath will be a Project Search host employer from this September.

The Project Search model was developed by Cincinnati Children's

Hospital to support people with moderate to severe learning disabilities into work. As a result, 78 percent of participants secured real jobs between 2003 and 2005.

- [Apply for Project Search on the Office for Disability Issues website](#)

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## Links and info

- Download the strategy from the NHS Sustainable Development Unit's website

## SAVING CARBON, IMPROVING HEALTH

# Creating a greener NHS

Climate change is one of the biggest threats to our health and well-being. Just one indication of this is the heatwave in England in 2003, when over 1,500 people died prematurely.

**As one of the largest employers in the world, the NHS has an important role in reducing carbon emissions, a key cause of climate change.**

In January this year, the NHS made a commitment to meet the Government's target of an 80 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

The NHS has a carbon footprint of 18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. So meeting this goal will be no walk in the park and the NHS is relying on all staff to help it succeed.

*The Saving Carbon, Improving Health* strategy highlights the main areas of focus for the NHS:

**Energy and carbon management** – this includes increasing the

use of renewable energy where appropriate.

**Procurement and food** – involves minimising wastage at the buying stage and working with suppliers to lower the carbon impact of all aspects of procurement.

**Travel and transport** – consistently monitoring business mileage, providing incentives for low-carbon transport, and promoting care closer to home and opportunities to work from home.

**Water** – the NHS is measuring and monitoring its water usage, using water-efficient technology, and avoiding the routine purchasing of bottled water.

**Waste** – this involves minimising the creation of waste in everything from medicines to food.

**Designing the built environment** – including all new buildings and major refurbishments should be designed to withstand significant climate change and weather extremes.

**Organisational and workforce development** – every member of the NHS workforce should be encouraged to take sustainable action in their workplace and sustainable development should be included in every job description.

**Partnership and networks** – every NHS region should develop a regional network and an action plan for sustainable development.

**Governance** – every NHS organisation should sign up to the [Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model](#) and produce a sustainable development management plan.

**Finance** – NHS organisations should ensure appropriate investment is made to become part of a low-carbon NHS.

### The strategy in action

Yorkshire and the Humber (Y&H) is currently piloting NHS Forests, which involves a number of the SHA's trusts testing the affordability and manageability of glades of trees and woodland fields within their grounds.

Y&H is running the project with several partners, including the

Woodland Trust and the Campaign for Greener Healthcare.

'It's not only good for the environment, but also good for the patient healing environment and encourages patients and staff to get outside and take a walk,' says Roger French, Y&H's Economic Programmes Lead. 'Just one of the benefits we've found is that planting trees saves on the cost of cutting grass!'

The SHA expects to make a decision on wider rollout in October. However, quite a few trusts that were not involved in the pilot have already asked if they can join the scheme.

Keep an eye on future issues of the bulletin for an update on the project.

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## NHS LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2009

# Leading from the front

**The shortlist for the NHS Leadership Awards 2009 has been announced, and two of our flock have been shortlisted as contenders for the prestigious awards.**

Becci Martin from Greater Manchester West Mental Health Trust is a nominee for the Mentor of the Year award. Tricia Hart from South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is shortlisted for the Award for Inspiration.

The NHS Leadership Awards recognise outstanding leaders

### The NHS Leadership Awards 2009 categories

- Leader of The Year
- Mentor of the Year
- Partner of the Year
- Change Leader of the Year
- Innovator of the Year
- Award for Inspiration



Mental Health Nurse, Becci Martin, has been shortlisted for the Mentor of the Year Award.

from across the organisation in England, in seven categories (see box below left). The 18 individual nominations were picked from over 700 entries, and the results will be announced on 25 November.

### Coach trip

Becci Martin, a qualified mental health nurse who has been in health services for a decade, is up for the

Mentor of the Year Award. This category aims to honour staff who are 'committed and sought-after' mentors – accessible and knowledgeable people who challenge as well as motivate their mentees.

As North West Mentoring Scheme Manager, Becci considers it a 'learning relationship that supports personal and professional development to help achieve their full potential'.

'I've always enjoyed supporting learners and assisting new staff,' she says. 'I'm naturally drawn to it – I like seeing people flourish, so it matches my values. This is my dream job.'

When Becci first brought up the Leadership Awards, it was to spread the call for nominations among the 1,200 members of the mentoring scheme she manages, which aims

to enhance leadership capacity and create a stronger and more skilled workforce.

'So I was really surprised and thrilled to hear that I had been nominated,' she says. 'It's an honour to be recognised for something that I believe in so passionately, and great publicity for the North West Mentoring Scheme.'

### Inspiration station

As Director of Nursing and Patient Safety, Tricia Hart is responsible for over 2,700 nurses and midwives across two hospitals in North Yorkshire and Middlesbrough.

In her 35-year career in nursing and midwifery, Tricia has worked in primary and secondary care, at the SHA and the Modernisation Agency.

Her portfolio, besides covering various aspects of professional leadership

and educational development, sees her taking a lead role on integrated governance and patient safety. She has spearheaded a drive for continuous improvement in patient safety, which has led to reductions of 90 percent in MRSA bacteraemia and 40 percent in *C.difficile*.

Befitting such a driving role, Tricia was shortlisted for this year's Award for Inspiration. It recognises people whose roles emphasise quality and the patient experience, who nurture and develop diverse talent, and have gained a reputation for courage and commitment.

For Tricia, the journey began early: 'At the age of seven I was admitted as an outpatient, due to what was to become lifelong chronic asthma. The experience of being cared

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## NHS LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2009 – CONTINUED

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for around the clock by skilled and compassionate nurses made a really strong impression on me. It influenced my career choice and made me want to become a caregiver too. 'Leadership is about discovering self-reliance – acquiring the stamina to persevere and to develop the qualities necessary for success. As a leader, I try to develop these qualities in my staff every day.

'It is about quality, service and teamwork. Quality is the daily pursuit of perfection. Patient service is not a department or ward, it is an attitude – every patient contact is a moment of truth. And my approach to teamwork is that none of us is as smart as all of us. Many hearts, hands and minds



Director of Nursing and Patient Safety, Tricia Hart, has been shortlisted for the Award for Inspiration.

generally contribute to a notable achievement.

'I feel incredibly proud and humbled to be nominated,' adds Tricia. 'It's an accolade to the terrific staff at South Tees Foundation Trust, and great news for the

healthcare community across the North East.

'Such awards are a huge motivator. They create a culture of reward and recognition, of work being valued.'

**'The experience of being cared for around the clock by skilled and compassionate nurses made a really strong impression on me.'**

### Links and info

- Read more about the NHS Leadership Awards on the dedicated website

## Updating the essentials

**Essence of Care – which is used by healthcare and social care practitioners to improve the quality of their services – has been updated and a new benchmark on pain management added to the mix.**

**The new benchmark and the updated ones are currently under separate consultations, both of which close on 12 October.**

Maureen Morgan from the DH's professional leadership team in the CNO Directorate says: 'The launch of the new benchmark on pain gave us the opportunity to review all the material so that Essence of Care benchmarks continue to reflect best practice.

'This was a good time to ensure the content of the toolkit is still relevant and that the language is appropriate for all the care settings in which it is now used.'

Essence of Care has continually developed

since its inception in 2001. The original eight benchmarks have expanded to 11, and some have been re-named. The system helps engage practitioners in a continual cycle of improvement by assessing their care against quality, as defined by patients, users and experts.

Action plans have generated widely-adopted initiatives, such as the red tray scheme, which helps to improve nutrition for some of the most vulnerable patients.

### Links and info

- Take part in the consultation via the DH website

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## PRESCRIBING RIGHTS FOR NURSES

# Wider access to drugs for patients and staff

**Nurse and pharmacy prescribers will be able to prescribe medicines that are mixed for administration, subject to a change in legislation coming soon.**

Ordinarily, mixing medicines creates a new preparation, which therefore falls outside the scope of independent prescribers. But, following the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) Commission on Human Medicines, this practice will be regularised in

certain situations.

The MHRA is now able to advise all prescribing practitioners that mixing of medicines can continue in some situations, such as palliative care, where it represents accepted good practice.

The agency says: 'We intend to regularise the position of those engaged in the prescribing and mixing of medicines in areas of clinical practice where it is necessary for effective patient care, and are extending our advice to cover these situations.'

Maureen Morgan from the DH's professional leadership team adds: 'Nurse prescribers will be

**'Nurse prescribers will be delighted with the announcement as it will enable them to provide the best care they can for their patients.'**



delighted with the announcement as it will enable them to continue to provide the best care they can for their patients.'

The proposals are scheduled to go before Parliament this November.

### Better access to new drugs

Patients will also get breakthrough medicines on the NHS quicker, under a scheme unveiled

in July. The Innovation Pass will make drugs – which could help small groups of patients such as cancer sufferers – available without going through the NICE appraisal process.

NICE will still assess if drugs are suitable for the scheme, which will be piloted in 2010/11 and run for three years with a budget of £25 million. A consultation to develop the pilot will launch in November 2009.

The Innovation Pass forms part of the Office for Life Science's Blueprint, a guide to putting innovation at the heart of healthcare.

NHS National Director for Improvement and Efficiency Jim Easton says: 'We have a major commitment to quality, and we need to hold onto that commitment, and now deliver that in



Jim Easton, NHS National Director for Improvement and Efficiency.

an economic environment that's clearly going to be tougher. We need to drive quality and productivity and prevention, using innovation as a link.'

### Links and info

- Download the Office for Life Science's Blueprint

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## OCTOBER ROADSHOW

### Helping nurses transform community services

**On Monday 19 October 2009, an event will be held in London focusing on the DH's Transforming Community Services (TCS) programme.**

The event will feature a range of plenary and tailored workshop sessions to highlight the role that nurses can play in the leadership,

development and delivery of community services.

The current financial climate continues to be a challenge for the NHS, so encouraging nurses to respond to the DH's Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention agenda will be a theme of the event.

Quality is now the organising principle of the NHS. Innovation is one of

the ways we can constantly improve care. Productivity is about making sure we deliver the right services cost effectively. And Prevention is about empowering patients to improve their health before they fall ill.

Nurses have the ability to help meet the fiscal constraints of NHS budgets, while ensuring

innovative, high-quality, personalised services for patients and an empowered workforce.

This event will provide information and tools to enable transformation to take place, including the launch of the NHS Institute's Productive Community Services programme.

Registration for the event

will be undertaken by TCS leads in each SHA, who have been allocated a number of places.

#### Links and info

- If you are interested in attending please contact your SHA, or the TCS team on 0113 254 6553

## HCAI TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAMME

### Clean, Safe Care website update

**Two further evaluation reports from the HCAI Technology Innovation Programme have been published on the Clean, Safe Care website.**

The 3M™ Clean-Trace™ Clinical Hygiene Monitoring System and the Bioquell Hydrogen Peroxide Vapour disinfection system had already received a top recommendation from

the Rapid Review Panel. They have now been evaluated in the seven showcase hospitals participating in the programme.

The Clean-Trace™ system, employed widely in the food industry, uses swabs and a hand-held light meter to measure biocontamination on surfaces and equipment, providing instant results. More than 53,000



The 3M™ Clean-Trace™ Clinical Hygiene Monitoring System.

readings were taken over a period of five months, and reductions in biocontamination levels

were observed. The system was popular with staff and the evaluation showed that it could be implemented in hospitals for comparing levels of contamination in different areas, or over time.

The Bioquell system uses hydrogen peroxide vapour to disinfect hospital areas and equipment that can be sealed off, and 99 percent of staff questioned would

recommend it to colleagues. The main issue with the system proved to be the availability of rooms for disinfection at the times when the Bioquell engineers were available.

#### Links and info

- NHS trusts can read the reports

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Seasonal flu campaign materials

A leaflet and poster to support the programme will be available to order from early September. Order materials from the [DH orderline](#), allowing 10 days for delivery. Orders will be filled when all materials are available.

### Women affected by FGM

The DH is funding research to increase knowledge about women and girls affected by female genital mutilation (FGM) in England, and the training needs of key health professionals. Nurses are urged to participate because, women who are affected by FGM often first come into contact with the NHS through maternity services, obstetrics, gynaecology and sexual health clinics. Between 1 and 8 October 2009, you are asked to submit data on the numbers presenting with FGM, demographic data and

ethnic background. Nurses are also asked to complete the 15-minute survey to assess training needs by 8 October 2009. The findings will be reported in the cross-government strategy on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the reports of the VAWG Health Taskforce, due in early 2010.

- [Submit your data and complete the survey](#)

### Help keep equality in the spotlight

The Equality and Diversity Council has been set up to make sure that the NHS acts on these issues and to help organisations work with communities to deliver personalised and innovative services. The council will be chaired by NHS Chief Executive David Nicholson and Chief Nursing Officer Christine Beasley is one of the first to join. Full membership will be announced in October, when the first

meeting will be held.

- [Read more on the DH website](#)

### New website for ECT nurses

The National Association of Lead Nurses in ECT (NALNECT) has a new website for mental health nurses who work in ECT clinics. The site includes ECT-related news items, and details of the NALNECT committee and the network of regional special interest groups in England and Wales.

- [Visit the NALNECT website](#)

### Patient Safety First week

From 21-27 September, local, regional and national activities will raise awareness and encourage everyone working in healthcare to take at least one new step that supports putting patient safety first.

- [Visit the Patient Safety First website to get involved](#)
- [Send your stories](#)

[to the website's community forum page or email them to \[info@patientsafetyfirst.nhs.uk\]\(mailto:info@patientsafetyfirst.nhs.uk\)](#)

### Florence Nightingale leadership scholarship

Nurses who aspire to a leadership or Board position are encouraged to apply for this scholarship, which is sponsored by the Burdett Trust. The scholar will undertake a programme geared to his/her individual needs, based on current performance assessment.

- [Visit the Foundation's website to apply](#)

### Quality Improvement Fellowships

The Health Foundation is looking for senior NHS leaders who are clinically qualified to apply for Quality Improvement Fellowships. Fellows will be able to spend a year working with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in

Massachusetts, USA. The aim is that they will integrate their learning at their employing organisation. The deadline is 16 October 2009.

- [Find out more on the Health Foundation's website](#)
- [Email awards@health.org.uk](mailto:awards@health.org.uk)

### New Horizons consult

Don't forget to have your say on the New Horizons, the proposed vision for mental health services. The 12-week consultation closes on 15 October 2009.

- [Submit your thoughts via the DH website](#)

### The Big Care Debate

You have until the end of October to have your say on the proposed reforms to the care and support system, as set out in the Green Paper, *Shaping the Future of Care Together*.

- [Visit to the care and support website to submit your thoughts](#)

## THIS MONTH

- p1-2** Modernising Nursing Careers
- p2** Swine flu update
- p3** Voicepiece
- p4** In profile: learning disability nursing
- p5** Valuing employment now
- p6** Saving carbon, improving health
- p7-8** NHS Leadership Awards 2009
- p8** Essence of Care update
- p9** Prescribing rights for nurses
- p10** Transforming community services roadshow HCAI technologies programme
- p11-12** News in brief

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Social Care bulletin: reader survey

The Social Care bulletin addresses matters related to the organisation and delivery of social care services and includes items of direct interest to social care staff. You are invited to submit your views on all aspects of this quarterly publication, so that the DH can ensure it continues to meet readers' needs.

- Take part in the online survey

### Reference guide to consent to treatment

The updated *Reference guide to examination for consent or treatment* is now available. It provides a guide to the legal framework that all health professionals need to take account of in obtaining valid consent for any examination, treatment or care they propose to undertake.

- Download the guide from the DH website

### Improving inpatient cancer care

*Transforming Care for Cancer Inpatients – Spreading the Winning Principles and Good Practice* identifies four principles that, if shared, could make significant improvements in quality, efficiency, patient experience and promotes value for money.

- Download the guidance from the NHS Improvement website

## DIARY

### NHS Institute 'Expert on Call' web seminar

**Date:** 17 September  
Expert on Call is a monthly web seminar series, where leading healthcare thinkers share their insights with the wider NHS. This month, David Welbourne, Director of Health and Human Services at the Matrix Knowledge Group, will speak about organisational health and how it can help large organisations like the NHS respond to challenges,

such as the current quality, innovation, productivity and prevention agenda. Online participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss putting these insights into practice.

- Visit the NHS Institute website to register

### Autumn CNO business meetings

**Date:** 23 September in Leeds and 24 September in London

### CNO summit: 'Leading quality, caring with compassion'

**Date:** 11-13 November in Newcastle  
Directors of nursing will receive a personal invitation at the beginning of September.

### MHRA's Pumps in Practice seminar and training day

**Date:** 4 November 2009  
**Venue:** Holiday Inn Kings Cross Bloomsbury, London WC1X 9HX  
This event is aimed at nurses from the primary

care, community and acute sectors. It will highlight common problems relating to infusion pumps and provide advice and support to minimise the risk of problems occurring.

- The full agenda is on the MHRA website

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

### Nursing

288028 – 20/7/09  
287890/91 – 20/7/09

### Health Visitors

286612 – 20/7/09

### School Nurses

287413 – 21/7/09

### Midwives

288013 – 20/7/09

## ABOUT THIS BULLETIN

### Web links

You can access the bulletin online at [www.dh.gov.uk/cnobulletin](http://www.dh.gov.uk/cnobulletin)

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