Nursing’s language barrier

There should be no compromise on the English language test for overseas nurses. Their skill level is not in question, but it is no good if they cannot understand what patients are saying, or patients cannot understand them.

It creates a barrier and is not conducive to safe practice. Patients can be left frustrated, and colleagues unsure if their directions have been understood.

Elaine.davin_753046

The English language requirement by the NMC is far higher than that for UK universities, and it is hurting nursing and patient outcomes.

Yes, nursing care should have English language as a requirement, but not at this current level.

davidudo973_102746

More than a golden hello

Golden hellos for nurses are okay, but won’t improve retention of staff. As soon as new recruits learn how short-staffed wards are and how few trained nurses are on shifts, they won’t stay long anyway.

To recruit and retain staff we need better pay and better staffing levels. Without these, the problems will just get worse.

Janstarkers_9056

Revalidation is a positive

I revalidated last year and found it a positive experience. It helped to look back on the things I had achieved, and it wasn’t too onerous either.

Sometimes we all need a reminder of what we are capable of, particularly when the job is so stressful. Revalidation did that for me.

Beverly Graham

Brexit not to blame

I wish people would stop blaming Brexit for threatening the future of the NHS.

The NHS has been in turmoil for years, long before there was even a sniff of leaving the EU.

Underfunding and poor management, an unsaid desire by government to privatisate, poor recruitment and retention, and an over-reliance on cheap foreign workers is now all coming back to bite the NHS.

Kevin Mason

Government claims vs reality

The public must be made aware that government claims such as ‘there are more nurses than ever’ do not match reality.

As a band 7 ward manager, I am taking home less pay than I was three years ago. I am at the top of my banding so get no further increments, and I have to pay more tax and more into my pension due to changes to our superannuation.

Senior staff work extra hours, often without pay, to support junior staff and plug the gaps in staffing. Then there’s the loss of funding for training.

There needs to be a much stronger campaign from the RCN to educate the public about why senior staff are evaluating the impact their working life is having on their own well-being.

This government is eroding standards and the unions and Nursing and Midwifery Council need to get that message out to the public more forcibly.

jo_and_rebecca

An amazing rally today at Downing Street. So proud of all our members. We sent a clear message: the pay cap must go #scrapthecap
@BemillRCN

#scrapthecap I pinned all my hopes on Nye Bevan, now Hunt is destroying our NHS @helen_hancox

Helen Oatham told our vigil night nurses working while Norfolk sleeps had no pay rise since 2009 #scrapthecap Theresa May! @IT30ESA

Nurses look after the sick, stop making us pay for the deficit #scrapthecap @daniellejadi198

Over the past 7 years nurse pay has been capped at 1%, in real terms it’s a 14% pay cut. It’s got to change #scrapthecap @jenidubs