**In brief**

**Champions are being sought to**

promote the Meds IQ network, which aims to reduce dosage errors in child medication. The online resource pools information to improve awareness of factors involved in calculating correct doses. By recruiting ‘champions’, the aim is to expand the network, bringing together child health professionals to support others. Email: medsiq@rcpch.ac.uk

**Tackling the nation’s sugar habit could**

save the NHS £500 million a year, according to a review by Public Health England. The population should get less than 5% of its energy from sugar, but actually gets up to 15%. Recommendations in the report, Sugar Reduction: The Evidence for Action, include a sugar tax of up to 20% and less marketing aimed at children. Go to tinyurl.com/p7x7qua

**Only five genes in**

a tumour sample need be examined to identify children at high risk of the most common soft-tissue sarcoma. The test, dubbed MG5 and developed by the Institute of Cancer Research, can identify aggressive forms of rhabdomyosarcoma. It has been validated in tests of samples from 68 young patients and suggests the possibility of personalised treatments.

**Four drugs have been approved by**

the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence for treating juvenile idiopathic arthritis, which affects around 10,000 UK children. The condition may start with symptoms such as a rash or fever, with joints eventually becoming inflamed and swollen. The health watchdog has provisionally recommended use of abatacept, adalimumab, etanercept and tocilizumab for conditions involving joint inflammation lasting more than six weeks for people under 16 years of age.

Campaign calls for statutory first aid training in schools

**NURSES ARE being urged to back a campaign to**

make first aid compulsory in all state-funded secondary schools.

The Every Child a Lifesaver campaign has been launched by St. John Ambulance, the British Heart Foundation and the British Red Cross. Just 24% of schools teach first aid, the charities warned.

The Emergency First Aid Education Bill, tabled by Teresa Pearce MP, says secondary schools must give young people the skills and confidence to deal with a range of medical emergencies including cardiac arrests, heart attacks, choking, bleeding, asthma attacks and seizures. It is due to have its second reading in parliament this month.

The RCN is encouraging nurses to fill in their details on the campaign website, which will generate an email to their MP. Fiona Smith, RCN professional lead for children and young people’s nursing, said: ‘By making this a compulsory part of education, we can equip our whole child – and future adult – population with the ability to help people and potentially save lives.’

**More distinct nurse roles needed for**

looked after children

**THE RCN has called for all clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to employ full-time designated and named nurses for looked after children to improve health outcomes.**

The request follows an RCN survey of 158 nurses who work with looked after children in England, which revealed a lack of service capacity and clarity around roles and responsibilities.

While 92% of respondents said there was a dedicated nurse for looked after children in their borough or county, 14.5% of them said this was a part-time role.

The college has published a position statement that says designated and named nurses for looked after children are distinct roles and should have separate post holders. The named nurse role is a high-level operational position, while the designated role is a strategic post, it says.

RCN professional lead for children and young people’s nursing Fiona Smith said: ‘Designated and named nurses can provide vital expertise in supporting children in care and can bring together key partners to commission and deliver strong, integrated support for those in the care system.’

Website will help practitioners diagnose illnesses in children

**NURSES AND child health practitioners will soon be offered a major online resource to spot symptoms of childhood illnesses and manage critical care situations.**

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), supported by bodies including the RCN and Royal College of General Practitioners, has designed the content of the Paediatric Care Online website with funding from the Department of Health. The online service, which will be subscription only, will be launched in January.