E-learning tool helps nurses and managers prepare for revalidation

AN NHS trust has set up a quality assurance panel and created an e-portfolio in a bid to ensure its nurses are prepared for the nursing regulator’s revalidation model.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust lead nurse for safe staffing and nursing and midwifery regulation Rachel Adams has been using various means to keep nurses informed about the Nursing and Midwifery’s Council’s new system of revalidation over the past 18 months.

The aim was to ensure 5,000 nursing and midwifery staff, including 500 children’s nurses, were well prepared.

The trust created an e-portfolio for nurses - that ties in with the electronic staff record - to provide managers and confirmers with a way of checking staff progress in meeting revalidation requirements.

They have created a traffic light system whereby an entry is marked green when all the evidence is ready, amber when some is in and red when there is barely any. Ms Adams said:

‘We wanted assurance people were preparing ahead of deadline to ensure there weren’t any risks of registrations lapsing among our nurses.

‘We also wanted line managers to be aware of how quickly staff were collecting evidence and what the quality of that evidence was like.’

Five-step checklist aims to reduce asthma readmissions

A NATIONAL care bundle has been launched for NHS hospitals discharging asthma patients.

The checklist, produced by the British Thoracic Society and Asthma UK, includes five simple steps aimed at reducing future admissions and attacks.

The five steps are: assess asthma inhaler technique, review medication, provide written action plans, trigger factors and timely follow-up in the community.

The checklist is aimed at children over two, although it notes that children under five may need special consideration.

The care bundle can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/j7or7gp

Study finds significant health problems of lone refugee children

A STUDY of unaccompanied children who have come to the UK as refugees or asylum seekers has found many have significant physical and psychological health needs.

A total of 104 children at the Millbank reception centre in Ashford, Kent, were studied from October to December 2015 and results show 70% had abnormal physical problems and 75% had mental health issues. More than 20% had anaemia, 12% heart murmurs, 46% dental decay, 37% reduced visual acuity, all had an incomplete immunisation history and 100% were at high risk for blood-borne viruses.

The children were also vulnerable because of trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and somatic complaints. However, researchers also found that children had high resilience levels due to their experiences.

The centre houses boys aged 16-18 who have come into the UK alone from countries such as Eritrea, Sudan and Afghanistan. Next steps would be dispersal, appeal/extension, resettlement, return/deportation.

People for Change Foundation director Christine Cassar told the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health/RCN Child and Young People’s Nursing Conference: ‘Unaccompanied minors are children first and asylum seekers second. We have to consider what is in the best interests of the child.

‘We need to support doctors, nurses and social workers. This population is a clinically significant group and likely to be a significant group across the country.’