Local pay: rags to riches?

Can we say we have a truly national health service when nurses are paid different rates depending on where they work? Surely to run a national service, which aims to provide the same levels of care across the country, as many factors as possible need to be kept equal. By allowing variation in the pay and conditions of the largest sector of the workforce, all kinds of inequalities in patient care delivery will be encouraged.

As far as I can see, trusts are not even being given any central guidance over what to base their offers on and there are no limits on how high or low they can go.

The framework deal may attempt to provide a floor for nurses' pay in the long term, by making sure that everyone is brought up to an average year by year, but this is just a mathematical exercise. How is the Review Body going to assess the perks and strings which trusts either offer or demand in return for the cash payment? They are not. Apart from the fact that I can't find a single colleague who understands it, it all sounds very unfair to me. It appears to combine the worst elements of the free market and the 1970s pay policies - Labour and Conservative.

Jane Barker
Streatham

A limit to what can be done in a day

Someone has to say it. The fact that a trained professional nurse or midwife can be struck off the register by the UKCC if they do not complete a certain amount of regular, self-funded updating or training, could be a significant factor in the retention of enough qualified nurses.

Women's lives, more than men's, continue to be divided into child rearing and career. Women, and particularly physically pushed nurses, feel that there is a limit to what can be crowded into each working day.

Surely, it is fast becoming every trust management's responsibility to fund and arrange regular updating, training and testing of their trained staff in all practical nursing procedures. I believe the fire service has on-going training for their skilled personnel because of the human lives at risk.

Name and address withheld

I am a staff nurse working in a urology unit, and am studying for a Certificate in Health Education.

My project is testicular self examination and the introduction of an information pack on to the unit.

Could anyone help particularly with leaflets and present practice especially in the community and schools.

Jan Johnson
12 Wanlock Close
Southfield Lea
Cramlington
Northumberland NE23 6LS

We are three G grade ward managers currently undertaking a project to consider the changing role of the G grade, particularly from the pre and post trust status aspect.

From this study, we hope to identify a training programme to facilitate the transition from F to G grade position.

If you have any relevant information, ideas or opinions on this subject, please contact: Corinne Wong, Kathy MacDonald and Karen Forrester
Upthill Ward
Weston General Hospital
Grange Road
Upthill
Weston Super Mare
Axon BS23 4TQ

As part of my Dip HE course in nursing, I am about to write an essay about 'Politics in nursing'. I would be grateful for any information relating to this area.

John Naylor
The Basement Flat
57 Woodland Lane
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 4QG

I am a Project 2000 student and I am currently undertaking a research project on, 'The client's experience within the NHS', and would like to do the research on patients with lasting disorders.

I would like to hear from anyone who could let me know the impressions and perceptions they experienced as a patient within the health services.

How helpful did they find their treatment, how did they see their role as a patient and how did they feel about doctors, nurses or therapists? Did they feel understood, helped?

Christine Walther
Room 25
Severalls Nurses Home
Boxted Road
Colchester CO4 5HG

I am a staff nurse working in a high dependency unit attached to a general medical ward. We are upgrading our patient education video package, with emphasis on rehabilitation following myocardial infarction.

We also aim to include videos for patients newly diagnosed with asthma, diabetes and epilepsy. We would appreciate any help in recommending appropriate videos and where these may be obtained from.

John McKenzie
Staff Nurse
High Dependency Unit
Ward 8
DR Grays Hospital
Elgin
Moray
Scotland

I am a staff nurse working on an inpatient alcohol unit. We are in the process of reviewing our nursing assessments of clients when they come into hospital.

I would be grateful if people working in similar areas could forward any information which would help us.

James Mulvan
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