Nurse practitioner myths need to be cleared up

The RCN Nurse Practitioner Association (NPA) is keen to clear up any misunderstandings around its views on the current position of the UKCC with respect to the role and scope of nurse practitioner practice.

There is a myth that the NPA feels the UKCC should open a section of the register acknowledging them to be 'advanced practitioners'. As debate on advanced practice has progressed, the NPA has stressed the need to disentangle the two issues of defining nurse practitioner practice and advanced practice.

The NPA believes that advanced practice is something which individual nurses can demonstrate with support from peer review or a body such as the RCN, and that it is inappropriate for the UKCC to set standards for, or attempt to record, advanced practice.

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I believe that the essence of nursing is worth holding onto and that nurses should not become medical technicians. Nurses should value themselves and be proud to be nurses.

Jane Brignall, Cambridge

Lust for learning provokes envy

I have been an EN for 16 years now, originally working on a cardiac ward and then moving...
Learning disability services undervalued

Organisations that wish to attract and retain learning disability nurses and other professional groups (News February 19) need to encourage staff who want to come and want to stay. Some of the factors that can affect this are:

- Can they provide high quality services?
- Can they continue to develop personally and professionally?
- Do they feel they are making a difference?

In many NHS trusts learning disability services are not valued. They can be seen as a mere add-on to other, more significant work.

If the position is to change, nurse directors, chief executives, personnel directors and purchasers need to create a much higher priority for learning disability services within their organisations.

Luke O'Byrne, chair, Society of Learning Disability Nurses

OBITUARY

Beryl Warne OBE spent the greatest part of her working life as a nurse, educationalist and senior NHS manager.

For her services as area nursing officer in Dorset she was honoured in the New Year’s Honours List in 1981.

Beryl trained at Guy’s Hospital (1946-1950) and followed this with midwifery training and a period as ward sister before studying for the sister tutor diploma – University of London at the Royal College of Nursing (1956-1958).

After experience as a nurse tutor at Guy’s she was appointed an inspector of training schools by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

In 1967 she became principal tutor of the Bournemouth and East Dorset School of Nursing. With the introduction of the Salmon Committee structure for nursing, she was appointed chief nursing officer to the East Dorset Health District in 1969. Five years later she became area nursing officer.

She was an active member of the RCN and for two years was vice chairman of Congress in the early 1980s.

Her wise counsel and kindly interest will be sadly missed.

Angela Gould OBE