Call for preceptorship 'right' for new nurses

As part of the RCN response to JM Consulting's document reviewing the Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act, the RCN suggested that a probationary period for newly qualified nurses should be considered.

The ANS, in response to this, successfully submitted an emergency resolution, asking that the notion of a probationary period for newly qualified nurses be rejected.

The ANS agrees that a probationary period is necessary, but believes it should be called preceptorship.

Preceptorship is vital to ensure that the newly qualified nurse receives support.

At present, preceptorship is disorganised. It is time it became a statutory right of all newly qualified nurses. The UKCC should formulate and formalise this right, and provide all registered nurses and care providers with support during role transition.

Paul Jebb is a staff nurse at Blackpool Victoria Hospital NHS Trust and ex-officio on the ANS Executive as past chair.

Uniform agreement on nurses' clothing

The adequate provision of clean, safe uniforms is an issue that affects all nurses. But for students, there is the added problem of cost.

Some students have to buy their uniforms and pay for laundry, adding to an already difficult financial situation.

From this premise, the ANS asked Congress to urge employers to provide uniforms which conform to good moving and handling and infection control practice. Many uniforms worn today were designed before moving and handling was considered to be an issue. Ill-fitting and badly designed uniforms restrict movement and limit safe handling techniques.

Students asked for trusts and universities to work together to design and also provide clean and safe uniforms for them, in the same way they are provided for qualified staff.

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly.

Lee Ranyard is ANS sabbatical officer for the north of England.

Violence affects all nurses

This resolution initially focused on violence in A&E departments, and the need for the RCN to lobby for national standards to protect staff in this area.

As the debate progressed, it became clear that violence is a concern to nurses in all departments within hospital settings, and that national standards could help to ensure action in local trusts.

Closed circuit TV was identified as a realistic way of alleviating violence against staff. With employers having a responsibility to promote the safety of their staff, this could be a practical way of helping to reduce violence.

John Osborne