**In brief**

The low quota of nurses due to sit on the new regulatory body that will replace the UKCC and national boards was criticised at Congress.

South Grampian nurse Fraser Westwood said: 'I am concerned will replace the UKCC and nation­ on the new regulatory body that the level of representation will be control by the profession over selection of members.'

Congress also called on the government to protect the title 'nurse' when it introduces legislation, probably later this year, to create the new regulatory body.

The recommendations of the Royal Com­ mission on the Long Term care of the Elderly must be implemented in full, Congress demanded.

Dame June Clark, who was a mem­ ber of the Comm­ ission, said there was 'no quick fix' and that individual insurance would not work.

'We examined the financial risks for individuals and the state, the type of care citizens in our society have the right to expect, and how the system should be fair, open and honest,' she said.

Nurse consultants should follow the lead of their medical counter­ parts in the way they manage their time, a fringe meeting was told.

The meeting discussed how nurses who fill the posts when they are created over the next couple of years should tackle the new roles.

Brian Dolan of the RCN A&E nursing association said nurse con­ sultants should consider dividing their days into sessions. That would mean sacrosanct time for clinical work, administration and teaching.

Male rape is a hidden crime that causes extreme suffering for untold numbers of victims, Congress heard before accepting a resolution to lobby the government for improved services for men who have been raped.

Paul Rogers of the RCN forum for development of mental health prac­ tice said many survivors develop post-traumatic stress disorder. Others experience feelings of shame, guilt and self-blame.

**Trusts should be forced to publish care league tables**

RCN GENERAL SECRETARY Christine Hancock last week called on minis­ ters to consider introducing league tables on a range of indicators which she said would demonstrate clearly the value of nursing.

'We've got league tables for death rates,' she said. 'Why not have them for the incidence of pressure sores, for pain management, nutritional standards, or the number of patients who say that their discharge home was properly planned?'

She also suggested that trusts should be forced to publish information on staffing levels, the skill mix of qualified and unqualified nursing staff, and staff turnover.

The central theme of Miss Hancock's address, which was warmly received, was the importance of nurses explaining the value of their work to managers, doctors and other health professionals.

"Few people understand what we do," she said. 'They think we're help­ ful, they think we're kind, they think we're ministering angels - but often people haven't got a clue what nurses actually do. The trouble is, because few people understand what we do, nursing is undervalued.'

She added that nurses need to become much better at communi­ cating the profession's contribution to health improvement. 'We don't have any credibility unless we can show that expert registered nurses improve the quality of patient care,' she said.

But nurses had to be careful how they delivered the message, Miss Hancock warned. 'We need to beware of nurse-speak. We have got our own sort of jargon. No one is going to listen to us if they don't understand what we're saying.'

'As nurses we need to be bilingual, to present our arguments, and to describe the value of nursing, in a way that people understand. Not just to patients, but also to managers, doctors and other colleagues.'

**RCN to look at sponsorship**

NEW GUIDELINES on the ethical dilemmas posed by the sponsorship of nursing posts by commercial com­ panies are to be drawn up by the RCN.

The college is to invite representa­ tives of industry and patients' groups to talks on what the guidelines should say.

The move follows an admission by RCN adviser in nursing practice Susan Scott that the existing guidance has been widely ignored, both by certain companies and in some cases by nurses themselves.

Speaking at a Congress fringe meeting, Ms Scott said: 'The existing guidelines are dated and have not stopped nasty things going on. And it's not just about sponsored posts, it's also about nurses being paid to attend study days.'

She said the new guidelines would need to be more explicit and allow deals to be struck in 'an ethical, busi­ ness-like way'. She predicted that companies would welcome the opportunity to clarify arrangements.