Taking revenge on ‘pillow comfort’

Having been a ‘learn while you work’ nurse in a hospital, I now realise I should have had concentrated tuition in making patients more comfortable through pillow comfort.

Only when I had a serious accident and was hospitalised did I see other patients in their beds—painful bodies left in twisted positions—not being able to correct their pillows. There was added discomfort because our pillows were thick at one end and flat at the other.

So, getting some sort of revenge, I re-named the pillows the ‘winky-wonky pillows’!

Anja Rickard
London

Double standards are forcing me out of the NHS

In February, having left the NHS in 1995 as a top grade E, I returned to the NHS to work in elderly care. While in the independent sector, I worked as a home manager at the equivalent of grade I, running a 40-bed home.

Despite my willingness to return and use my years of experience in elderly care, I have had to return at the bottom of grade D. I am now on the same rate of pay as return-to-nursing candidates when I have never left it!

My manager still wants to use my skills and experience in care planning, writing protocols and implementation of working practice systems.

I have become so disillusioned with such double standards that I am now actively seeking employment outside of nursing.

Surely, each trust should have set criteria for the allocation of grading and induction requirements of new staff—it is, after all, a national health service.

J Harris
Cheltenham

Time to praise auxiliaries and healthcare assistants

I was sorry to read the way in which nursing auxiliaries and healthcare assistants were described in the Daily Mail on March 8 (as reported at RCN Congress). I am a staff nurse working on a rehabilitation unit where they are an integral part of the multidisciplinary team.

They are diligent in their work, they are keen to learn and improve their skills, and they work well with the team.

Surely, more recognition of their work would not be amiss! I sincerely hope that the RCN forum seeks two enthusiastic district nurses

Two enthusiastic practising district nurses are required by the RCN district nurses forum.

They need to commit at least four days a year for meetings based in London (expenses paid for travel from England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales).

The forum aims to inform the national agenda on district nursing issues.

If you are interested, please write to the address below, giving details of your experience and particular interests.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Caroline Simmonds (Chair)
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