Newly qualified nurses could prescribe early in their careers, suggests NMC

Newly qualified nurses may be able to undertake training to prescribe under proposals set out by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

The regulator has launched a consultation on prescribing and medicines management as part of its overhaul of nursing education. Currently, a nurse or midwife has to be registered for two years before being eligible to undertake a community practitioner prescribing programme. The NMC proposes that immediately after becoming registered, a nurse or midwife could complete the practice requirements of a community practitioner prescribing programme.

NMC chief executive Jackie Smith said: ‘These proposals would enable nurses and midwives to gain prescribing experience as soon as they qualify.’

Prescribing expert and independent consultant nurse Matt Griffiths welcomed the proposals but questioned the NMC’s plans to withdraw its standards for medicine management.

The consultation can be viewed at www.nmc.org.uk/nurse2030

Patients were wheeled to safety by nurses after a fire was allegedly started deliberately at Royal Stoke University Hospital. A man was arrested in connection with the incident.

Read more: rcni.com/stoke-fire

The RCN issued guidelines in the wake of recent terror attacks, which advise nurses and midwives caught up in an incident to get to safety, and reminds them that there is no expectation for them to put their own lives at risk.

Read more: rcni.com/terror-guidelines

Two Labour MPs with nursing backgrounds have been elected to parliament following the UK general election. They join three Conservative nurse MPs who were re-elected on 8 June.

Read more: rcni.com/nurse-MPs

The family and colleagues of Australian Kirsty Boden have paid tribute to the Guy’s Hospital theatre recovery nurse who was killed as she ran to help victims of the London Bridge terror attack. In a statement, her family said: ‘We are so proud of Kirsty’s brave actions.’

Read more: rcni.com/Kirsty-Boden

Queen’s Nursing Institute chief executive Crystal Oldman has been made a CBE for services to the charity and community nursing. She joins other nurses recognised in the 2017 Queen’s birthday honours.

Chief nursing officer for Wales Jean White was made a CBE, and RCN Wales associate director of employment relations Peter Meredith-Smith was made an OBE.

MBEs went to: Western Health and Social Care Trust director of primary care and older people’s services Alan Corry-Finn; South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Macmillan head and neck clinical nurse specialist Cherith Semple; and North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust nurse consultant in dual diagnosis Philip Cooper.

Go to rcni.com/birthday-honours

Clockwise from top left: Jean White; Peter Meredith-Smith; Crystal Oldman; Philip Cooper; Cherith Semple; Alan Corry-Finn