NMC uncovers nurses who are practising without registration

Nearly 100 nurses have been practising without registration, with some senior nurses failing to renew their registration for up to ten years, the Nursing and Midwifery Council has discovered.

The nurses were identified in a project targeting nurses who have failed to re-register. Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) chief executive Dickon Weir-Hughes said that nurses who allow their registration to lapse and continue working are breaking the law.

Unregistered nurses working in universities could invalidate students’ education, while those working at board level could be in contravention of the NHS Act 2006.

Professor Weir-Hughes has written to all directors of nursing and deans of nursing schools warning them to check they and their colleagues are registered.

He wrote: ‘It has come to my attention that a number of senior colleagues, either currently in or about to take up leadership or academic roles, do not hold an effective NMC registration. You will appreciate my concern about this matter.’

Letters are now being sent to nurses before their registration is about to expire. Professor Weir-Hughes is also writing to employers who have employees working without registration and will be alerting the Care Quality Commission about them.

He told Nursing Standard that 92 nurses have been found working without registration since the project began in March. Lapses generally occur accidently, often because nurses have moved house and failed to update their details with the NMC.

Professor Weir-Hughes said: ‘Nurses need to value their registration. We at the NMC value it as a key way to protect the public.’

RCN assistant head of nursing Tim Curry said: ‘Such lapses are worrying as it exposes nurses and the public. Registration is fundamental to practice.’

Professor Weir-Hughes said GPs are causing particular concern as employers who are less likely to check nurses’ registration. Two of the 92 nurses who had lapsed registrations were working at the same practice, he said.

Nurses will soon be able to pay their registration fees by direct debit through the NMC website.

Hospital’s exhibition pays tribute to its famous alumni

Three centuries of nursing leaders and their contribution to the profession is celebrated in a new exhibition.

Florence Nightingale, Baroness Audrey Emerton and Dame Jennifer Wilson-Barnett are among the nurses whose work is being showcased at St George’s University of London.

The exhibition celebrates staff who have taught and trained at St George’s in Tooting, south London. Faculty of health and social care sciences dean Fiona Ross, pictured at the exhibition, said: ‘It is good for our nursing students to gain an insight into the past and how they can use that to help them in the future.’

FOUNDERS RECOGNISED IN QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

OBE
Susan Mary Downe – professor of midwifery studies, University of Central Lancashire.
David James McArthur – colonel, formerly with the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps.

MBE
Ena Bingham – epilepsy nurse specialist, Belfast.
Pauline Byers – nurse and director of The Practice Development Unit, Derby.
Princess Campbell – retired nurse, Bristol.
Mary Ruth Clarke – head of midwifery, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Christine Cole – epilepsy nurse specialist, Hertfordshire.
Colin Godfrey – activities development nurse, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.
Debra Marie Houssonne – lieutenant commander, Queen Alexandra’s Royal Naval Nursing Service.
Uriel Jamieson – formerly head of policy and business support, chief nursing officer directorate, Scottish Government.
Richard Jones – former associate director of employment relations, RCN Wales.
Helen MacKinnon – director of nursing, NHS Education for Scotland.
Kathleen Lovatt – health visitor, NHS Sheffield primary care trust.
Teresa Neate – practice educator, Landsdowne Hospital, Cardiff.
David Nunn – community psychiatric nurse, Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust.
Helen Jane Singh – lieutenant colonel, Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps.
Diana Emmerson Wharton – practice nurse, Ministry of Defence.

ASSOCIATE ROYAL RED CROSS
Lindsay Devomor – corporal (acting sergeant), Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps.