**BAPEN survey highlights young adult malnutrition**

More than a quarter of people aged between 20 and 29 who are admitted to hospital from their homes are malnourished, according to a survey.

The British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) surveyed people admitted to hospitals, care homes and mental health units in the UK in 2011.

BAPEN said rates of malnutrition among people admitted to hospital had dropped from 34 to 25 per cent between 2010 and 2011. But one in four young adults admitted to hospital is malnourished.

An RCN spokesperson said: ‘It is clear that more needs to be done to promote nutrition in the home. It needs to begin with support and advice from health visitors and other healthcare professionals from childhood.’

The survey says malnutrition strategies are also needed to detect, prevent and treat malnutrition in care settings, including those in the community, where most malnutrition originates.

Patients and residents admitted into care settings should be screened and weighed, it adds. Go to [www.bapen.org.uk/news.html](http://www.bapen.org.uk/news.html)

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**Research panel to discuss if compassion is measurable**

Nurses attending an international research conference next week will debate if care and compassion can and should be measured.

The Nursing Standard sponsored debate, chaired by RCN executive director of nursing Janet Davies, will be held at the RCN annual international nursing research conference in London on Tuesday April 24.

Oxford Brookes University senior lecturer in adult nursing Ann Bradshaw will be on the panel speaking against the motion, while Manchester Metropolitan University professor of nursing Carol Haigh will be arguing that caring can and should be measured.

More than 200 research presentations will be made by nurses, nurse educators and nursing researchers at the three-day event, which will be grouped into themes ranging from end of life care to migration.

Topics include improving patient experience, key performance indicators and becoming a nurse consultant.

Go to [http://tinyurl.com/intl-research-conf](http://tinyurl.com/intl-research-conf)

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**IN BRIEF**

**Shift workers who get little sleep at the wrong time of day could be increasing their risk of obesity and diabetes, research reveals.** Researchers from Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, restricted the sleep of 21 participants over three weeks to 5.6 hours per 24 hours. The results of the study, published in Science Translational Medicine, showed that the participants had impaired glucose regulation. Go to [http://tinyurl.com/cueética](http://tinyurl.com/cueética)

**NHS Western Isles in Scotland has appointed its first multiple sclerosis nurse specialist.** Rachel Morrison will start work next month. Her post has been funded by the MS Society for nine months and the board will continue to fund it after that. MS Society service development manager Andrew Johnston said: ‘This is great news for people affected by multiple sclerosis in the Western Isles, as working with Rachel will help them manage their condition on a day-to-day basis.’

**Thirty newly qualified nurses have been employed by Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.** The recruits began a six-month preceptorship programme at the trust last week. RCN northern region operational manager Estephanie Dunn said she was impressed by the support and training offered by the trust’s preceptorship programme.

**More than 400,000 babies in England will be screened for rare inherited conditions as part of a year-long pilot.** Babies in Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and London will be tested from July for maple syrup urine disease, homocystinuria, glutaric acidemia, isoavaleric acidemia and long-chain fatty acidemia. Chief medical officer Dame Sally Davies said serious conditions would be identified earlier, giving babies the chance to live a long, healthy life.

**Nurse managers in Wales will benefit from an online programme to help determine safe staffing levels for their wards.** The Safer Nursing Care Tool, developed by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, enables nurses to identify the staffing levels needed by using information about patients’ conditions and the likelihood of any deterioration. The programme is already being used by NHS trusts in England and it will start to be introduced in acute wards in Wales from next month. Go to [http://tinyurl.com/6bc5esg](http://tinyurl.com/6bc5esg)

A leaflet informing pregnant women about the advice they can receive from midwives’ supervisors has been published by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. The leaflet tells expectant parents and midwives how they can access additional support from experienced supervisors. Go to [http://tinyurl.com/cwrkmqf](http://tinyurl.com/cwrkmqf)

**An inspection of the Western Infirmary in Glasgow found that care for patients with dementia and cognitive impairment needs to be improved.** However, inspectors from Health Improvement Scotland concluded that most patients at the infirmary were treated with respect. RCN Scotland director Theresa Fyffe said: ‘We are pleased that inspectors found good practice in a number of areas.’ Go to [http://tinyurl.com/cuq36sh](http://tinyurl.com/cuq36sh)