College warns Scottish Government about rushing law on integration

The RCN says it will press the Scottish Government every step of the way to make sure nurses’ views on health and social care integration are reflected in forthcoming legislation.

First minister Alex Salmond announced last week that an Adult Health and Social Care Bill – intended to reform planning and provision of services – would closed this week, should not be rushed and must take the views of nurses and others into account.

The principles are grouped into four themes, outlining the ‘actions required from individuals, staff, care organisations and political leaders’.

The RCN wants to see a commitment to ‘processes that sustain respectful relationships’, and a drive for local integration plans to be designed ‘in partnership’ to improve outcomes.

RCN Scotland associate director Ellen Hudson said it would be a challenge for the government.

‘We will press the Scottish Government at every opportunity to ensure that it considers our principles for integration that we believe would be successful, and hope to see this reflected in the bill when it is finally introduced.’

For further details go to tinyurl.com/scotland-professional-issues

Nurse honoured for road accident heroics

A nurse who is due to be given a bravery award for risking her life to save a motorist after a car crash, says nurses should receive regular first aid and resuscitation training.

Following the crash – in which her own car was involved – Louise Price ripped off pieces of her clothing to stem motorist Adam Brinkworth's bleeding. His vehicle was leaking fuel and could have exploded at any moment. She then administered heart compressions and CPR until an ambulance arrived.

Ms Price, a lead custody nurse for Gwent Police, said: ‘It was frightening, but we had had training in first aid and CPR. Without that it would have been a lot more daunting.’

Ms Price will receive the Royal Humane Society’s Testimonial on Parchment – one of the highest civilian honours for bravery.

World in Brief

Specialist training Ghana is setting up a college to provide specialist nursing training to qualified nurses and midwives in the country. The Ghana Registered Nurses Association (GRNA) has joined forces with the Ministry of Health and Nursing and Midwifery Council to set up the college in the country’s capital Accra.

GRNA president Kwasi Asante-Krobea said that the college would be established by December and funded by the government.

Mr Asante-Krobea added that nurses and midwives who had already had basic training in nursing and midwifery would be eligible to enrol.

Iranian study Nurses in Iran have poor general and mental health and need ‘comfortable nursing shoes’ and mechanical devices to help them move patients, according to research.

A survey of 520 nurses and support workers in ten university hospitals in Tehran revealed that nearly 40 per cent reported their general health as either ‘poor’ or ‘fair’. Heavy workloads and the stresses of raising a family were significant factors. Extra staff and flexible working could help improve nurses’ lives, the researchers added. Their study is published in the September issue of the International Nursing Review.

Emigration Danish nurses struggling to find posts in their own country are relocating in increasing numbers to Norway. During the first half of 2012, 352 Danish nurses received authorisation to work in Norway, compared to 145 in the whole of 2008.

Norway’s labour ministry senior adviser John Sørbe said that recruitment from the outside his country was needed because a spring audit had shown there was a shortage of 2,150 nurses.

Anni Pilgaard, vice president of Dansk Sygeplejerskåd, which represents Danish nurses, said: ‘There is a risk that some nurses will settle permanently in Norway, but I am sure that most will return with valuable experience.’