government has artificially created. We ask that every healthcare worker publicly voices their concerns about the current state of the NHS.

We want the NHS bursary retained. Its removal will obliterate any chance of the people of this country having safe care. A vacancy rate of almost 10% in the NHS is not safe. If we are to retain our NHS, free and universal to all, then we must invest in it.

Anthony Johnson, second-year nursing student and bursary campaigner, by email

M ost Experienced Nurses Need To Return To The Bedside
It was heartening to read about Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust’s appointment of clinical matrons who will spend most of their time in clinical practice (news, March 9). I agree wholeheartedly with trust chief nurse Donna Green when she states that ward sisters and matrons have become more involved in admin and clinical skills are lost. This is a national issue.

There’s something terribly wrong with a system that takes the most experienced nurses away from the bedside. The opportunity for experienced nurses to support and nurture those with less experience and act as positive role models to improve patient care is lost. The profession and its most experienced nurses need to return to the fundamentals if we are to make a difference in patient care.

I note that the ward manager’s role will be redefined and they’ll have clerical support to develop their teams.

I commend Ms Green on this initiative and wish the team every success. I look forward to reading more about its progress in the future.

Linda Nazarko, nurse consultant, London

Get Your Rightful Tax Relief Without Losing A Penny Of It
I am writing to assist newly qualified nurses who are tempted by any offer to get them their rightful tax relief—at a cost. You don’t need to use them as you can get it for free. You can claim for your subscription to professional magazines or books, and as you are on your feet most of the day, you can claim for shoes and clothing necessary for work. We all need sensible, comfortable shoes and, dare I say, support tights. Just keep receipts to verify what you have bought for work.

Then send a letter to your tax office to claim for these. Remember to put your National Insurance number at the top, with any tax references to speed up the process. Also ask for any back-paid tax. If you don’t ask, you may not get.

When you have earned it, why should you give the tax allowance to someone else? Go for it.

Better still, if you can, phone the tax office and ask them to send you the relevant information and form. They are helpful, and may even point you to other areas for tax relief.

Christine Beaumont-Rydings, Greater Manchester

ON WHETHER NURSES HAVE A DUTY TO TALK TO PATIENTS ABOUT DEATH
Definitely. Patients can be anxious in hospital, and worries about dying can always be in someone’s mind. Never dismiss what may seem unjustified. Someone having an ingrown toenail removed may be more scared than someone with a more progressive illness. Nurses need to talk about death if the patient needs it, or as a disease progresses, using our compassion and care to do so.

Deirdre Mulvenna-Pegrum

Absolutely. I worked as a palliative care nurse in the community, and often came across family members who would ask me not to tell mum or dad about death. One family banned me from the home after listening over a baby monitor to me talking to their dad about death. He was desperate to talk. I was dumbfounded. Surely it is part of our role. All nurses should be able to communicate effectively to patients about death and dying, and identify when patients enter the terminal stage of their disease.

Barbara Coles Fletcher

Tweets Of The Week

Love the new @NurseStandard campaign. So much pressure on our workforce that CPD hours often go unprotected #1hour2empower @youvegotanthony

Perhaps biggest barriers to CPD are those put up by nurses themselves. Always a reason to put off to tomorrow @TomBolger

Employers acknowledging need for CPD and showing interest would be good start. Staff then may be bothered even if it’s in own time @wendyjpitt61

In austerity, training budget cuts happen first. Also wonder if AHPs/Drs are affected too or mainly nurses? @ElizSummary

Can get all 35 hours CPD in one go by attending Congress! #rcn16 @edfreshwater

Many nurses I know are wonderfully innovative. I’m sure their revalidation evidence will be resourceful and impactful @NRCUK

Remember that CPD activity isn’t necessarily being sat in a classroom. CPD can take many forms, including this Twitter chat @wlasinclair

As nurses, we need to work around the person, rather than expecting the person to work around our processes @PDarbyshire

Follow Nursing Standard @NurseStandard and join the #NScomment chat on Thursdays at 12.30pm