NMC finalises plans for nursing associate regulation

Final standards for the new nursing associate role have been agreed by the NMC’s governing Council. The standards set out the skills and knowledge nursing associates will need to know before they qualify.

Nursing associates will bridge the gap between registered nurses and healthcare assistants. As part of their role they’ll provide and monitor care in a range of settings. They will work as part of the wider health and care team, promoting health and wellbeing and improving safety and the quality of care. 82% of people who responded to the NMC’s consultation on the proposed standards said that they were set at an appropriate level.

The new role will also provide a training pathway to becoming a registered nurse for those nursing associates who want to further their career.


Fitter Better Sooner: preparing for surgery information toolkit

As part of the Royal College of Anaesthetists' (RCoA) commitment to championing perioperative medicine, the College has launched Fitter Better Sooner; a patient information toolkit aimed at advising patients on how to prepare for going in to hospital and encouraging them to improve their health before surgery. The toolkit consists of one main leaflet, six specific leaflets on some of the most common surgical procedures and an animation which can be shown in clinics or on portable devices.

Aimed at patients, but delivered by care providers, the toolkit materials can be used in ‘teachable’ moments with patients to encourage them to actively participate in their own healthcare choices and enjoy the benefit of a healthy lifestyle long after surgery.

The Fitter Better Sooner toolkit is endorsed by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng).

Visit https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/fitterbettersooner for more information

HCPC launches consultation on revised Standards for prescribing

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) has launched a consultation on draft revised Standards for prescribing.

Currently, members of five professions that they regulate may complete post-registration training to become non-medical prescribers. In September 2018, over 1,400 professionals on the HCPC Register held an annotation for prescribing.

The HCPC’s current Standards for prescribing were published in August 2013. Since then there have been a number of important changes in non-medical prescribing practice and regulation. In 2016 to 2017, the HCPC also updated their Standards of education and training for pre-registration programmes (‘the SETs’).

Prescribing is also an area where there is considerable regulatory duplication. Several different regulators have responsibilities to quality assure the same skills, and even the same education and training programmes, for different professions.
The HCPC believe it is sensible to set the same standards for the same skills where it is appropriate and possible to do so.

The 13 week consultation started on 1 October 2018 and runs until 4 January 2019.

For more information visit https://www.hcpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/news/index.asp?id=888

NMC seeks views on plans to increase ways for nurses and midwives to return to work

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is seeking views on proposals that would increase options for nurses, midwives and, in the future, nursing associates to show that they are safe to return to work after time away from their profession.

Currently, around 1,000 nurses and midwives return to work each year by completing a return to practice course at a university.

As part of its public consultation, the regulator is exploring alternative options for nurses and midwives to show that their skills and knowledge are up to date. This may include taking a test or submitting a portfolio of evidence.

The NMC is also seeking views on proposed changes to return to practice university programmes and aims to better understand the barriers that prevent people from returning to the professions.

The consultation closes on Friday 16 November 2018.

To take part in the consultation go to https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/rtp-consultation/

NHS to prioritise doctors' mental health

NHS England has announced a new mental health support scheme to cover all NHS doctors in England. The new scheme will cover approximately 110,000 more doctors in addition to those already supported.

This builds on the success of NHS England's nationally funded programme for GPs and trainees suffering from mental health issues that was launched in early 2017. Over 1,500 GPs have already been treated by this confidential NHS GP Health Service. Three quarters of doctors supported in this way were able to return to work.

The NHS long term plan, due to be published shortly, will contain a renewed focus on mental health of both patients and staff. It will also consider the distinctive needs of other staff groups in the NHS.

The current service for GPs has shown itself to be highly valued, with a recent survey suggesting 93% of patients were likely to recommend the service to others; 88% said it had a positive or very positive impact on their wellbeing and 78% of doctors said it had a positive or very positive impact on their ability to continue working.

For more information visit http://php.nhs.uk/
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