ONLINE LINKS

~ Our NHS Our Future: NHS Next Stage Review - Leading Local Change
This comes in advance of the final report of the Darzi review of NHS services. The publication outlines five pledges on how the NHS will handle changes to services. The pledges focus on change that is transparent, clinically evidenced, locally led and for the benefit of patients.

~ Guidance when undertaking major changes to NHS services
Published by the Department of Health 'Changing for the better: Guidance when undertaking major changes to NHS services', has been developed in order to provide clear guidance for patients, the public and NHS staff on the processes underpinning changes to acute NHS services.

~ Mind the Gap!!! - World Class Healthcare for London.
Equity of health and healthcare in the capital. A briefing from the London Health Observatory.
http://www.lho.org.uk/Download/Public/13261/1/Mind%20the%20gap%20final.pdf

~ Healthcare for London - Consulting the Capital update
Londoners give their views on how the NHS in London could provide better, safer, more accessible services. 51% of respondents supported the proposal that almost all GP practices in London should be part of a polyclinic, either networked or same-site.
Over three-quarters thought it would be useful if GP surgeries were open for appointments in the evenings and at weekends.
67% of respondents felt that greater investment should go to community support for long-term conditions, such as diabetes and arthritis. See: http://www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk/
~ The National Service Framework for Long-term Neurological Conditions: national support for local implementation 2008
This document is the product of collaboration between DH, Care Service Improvement Partnership (CSIP) and the Third sector, and gives an overview of resources, tools and initiatives that are/will be available to support local implementation of the NSF

~ RCN Congress News
- New RCN strategic plan 2008-2013 - Forward Together
- RCN survey shows nurses spend more than a million hours a week on paperwork
- Emergency care nurses under pressure to meet four-hour waiting target
http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/congress/2008

~ Specialist nurses 'targeted' to cut NHS costs
http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/uk/specialist_nurses_targeted_to_cut_nhs_costs
An RCN survey of specialist and experienced nurses has found that vacancy freezes and fears of redundancy and downgrading are continuing to plague the NHS as it heads for a £1.8bn surplus.

~ Employing health care assistants - new toolkit available on RCN website
A new toolkit aimed at supporting the employment of health care assistants is now live on the RCN website. The toolkit makes the process of employing health care assistants much easier and is aimed at health care assistants themselves as well as their employers and other stakeholders such as primary care trusts, educationists and patients.

~ Keyboards and ward hygiene
Studies from University College Hospital London have found up to a quarter of keyboards in wards are contaminated with MRSA and other pathogens, which may be spread by sharing computers, according to Dr Peter Wilson, a consultant microbiologist. NHS agency NHS Connecting for Health has just spent £1m on custom-designed PC keyboards that are not only cleanable, but encourages users to clean them.
Guardian: http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2008/may/01/computing.medicalresearch?gusrc=rss&feed=technology

~ What's New in the latest Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Issue 2 2008)
http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HOME
Bjelakovic et al (2008)-No evidence that antioxidant supplements prolong life. Found that current evidence does not support their use as a means of prolonging life expectancy.
Huperzine A for Alzheimer's disease. (Li J, Wuet al) The review suggests that patients with Alzheimer's disease who have taken the drug Huperzine A have improved general cognitive function, global clinical status, functional performance and reduced behavioural disturbance compared to patients taking placebos.
Other reviews in this issue include: McDonald SJ, and Middleton P. Effect of timing of umbilical cord clamping of term infants on maternal and neonatal outcomes and Magee KD et al. Heparin versus placebo for acute coronary syndromes.
Important Changes to The Cochrane Library this issue. There are new status flags to make it easier to identify changes in Cochrane Reviews; and a new layout of the reviews incorporating risk of bias tables and a new History section.

~ Knowledge Weeks during the next month organised by the NLH specialist libraries (SL)
National Knowledge Weeks aim to highlight the best current evidence for selected healthcare topics.
http://www.library.nhs.uk/specialistlibraries/
Rhinitis (ENT SL) 12th May
Oral Health May 19th
CHD (Cardiac Rehab) 2nd June (Cardiovascular disease SL)
Homeopathy 9th June (CAM SL)

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