ONLINE LINKS

~ Improving cleanliness and infection control: from deep clean to keep was announced by Chris Beasley, Chief Nursing Officer. It comprises of a compendium of good practice examples from the national deep clean initiative and clarifies expectations for deep cleaning in the future.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefnursingofficerletters/DH_089719

~ Can you measure nursing?
An edition of Policy + which explores measures of the quality of nursing care and is based on the National Nursing Research Unit (NNRU) report State of the art metrics for nursing: a rapid appraisal. Drawing on a range of existing sets of indicators and systematic reviews linking aspects of nursing to patient outcomes, the paper examines whether or not nursing could be routinely measured in a way which would allow comparison between institutions and facilitate accountability for the quality of care.

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/content/1/c6/04/37/70/PPIssue12Canyoumeasurenursing.pdf

~ High quality nursing care - what is it and how can we best ensure its delivery?
The Next Stage Review High quality care for all places quality at the heart of the NHS. Nurses are in a powerful position to improve the quality of care, the experience of patients, and health outcomes across health services. Here the Kings Fund summarise key aspects of the recent National Nursing Research Unit report, Nurses in Society: starting the debate and supporting evidence1-3.

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/nursing/nnru/policy/issue13.html

~ Safer maternity services
A Safer Births initiative to improve the safety of maternity services in England was launched recently by several bodies including King’s Fund and RCOG, and the Royal College of Midwives. Starting in 2009 the Safer Births initiative will work with the health service to help midwives, obstetricians and managers think about current practice, the challenges in improving safety and their local priorities. The programme will also look to work intensively with a number of individual maternity units as part of an improvement network.

http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/media/safer_births.html
Next stage review on framing the contribution of AHPs

This document, *Framing the contribution of allied health professionals – delivering high quality healthcare*, highlights the particular themes and programmes of work heralded by *High Quality Care For All*, and focuses on the Next Stage Review for allied health professionals and describes the improved AHP service offer to patients and the public.


Occupational therapy in adult social care in England: sustaining a high quality workforce for the future

This report is the result of partnership working between the Department of Health and the College of Occupational Therapists (COT). It was commissioned in 2007 in light of the Options for Excellence workforce review. It reflects the recognised need to build an occupational therapy social care workforce for the future by improving opportunities for student placements and supporting newly qualified staff.


Mental wellbeing and older people – Guidance from National Institute for health and clinical excellence.

Recent public health intervention guidance was issued October 2008 for Occupational therapy and physical activity interventions to promote the mental wellbeing of older people in primary care and residential care.

The guidance focuses on the role of occupational therapy interventions and physical activity interventions in the promotion of mental wellbeing for older people. It is for NHS primary care and other professionals who have a direct or indirect role in, and responsibility for, promoting older people's mental wellbeing. This includes those working in local authorities and the wider public, private, voluntary and community sectors. It will also be relevant for carers and family members who support older people and may be of interest to older people themselves.


Patients to refer themselves for NHS treatment of therapies

Patients in England should soon be able to bypass GPs and self-refer to physiotherapists and a host of other health staff, after ministers gave the plan their backing. The Department of Health is to call on NHS chiefs to allow people to go straight to dieticians, podiatrists and speech therapists as well as physiotherapy. Many NHS trusts have been developing self-referral schemes over the last two years.

BMJ news report: [http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/oct22_1/a2239](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/oct22_1/a2239)


Attack on traditional ways of assessing the evidence of therapeutic interventions

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins, Chair of NICE, argues in this year’s Harveian Oration, that we need a new approach to analysing clinical evidence. Randomised Controlled Trials, long regarded at the ‘gold standard’ of evidence, have been put on an undeserved pedestal. Their appearance at the top of “hierarchies” of evidence is inappropriate; and hierarchies, themselves, are illusory tools for assessing evidence. They should be replaced by a diversity of approaches that involve analysing the totality of the evidence-base.


Report: [http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/contents/304df931-2ddc-4a54-894e-e0c0b03e84a5.pdf](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/contents/304df931-2ddc-4a54-894e-e0c0b03e84a5.pdf)
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