ONLINE LINKS

~ Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11
A revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11 has been published setting out a number of areas subject to immediate change. The revision to the NHS Operating Framework for 2010/11 makes significant changes this financial year and signals substantial changes in future years as to how the NHS will function.

~ Building the evidence base in pre-hospital urgent and emergency care
This document reviews the existing research and evidence in the field of prehospital urgent and emergency care, and identifies gaps where future research would be valuable. It is a resource for organisations and individuals looking for existing evidence to inform policy and practice, and for those planning and funding future research.

~ First three NICE quality standards unveiled
The first three NICE quality standards covering stroke care, dementia care and prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) were presented to the Secretary of State on 30 June 2010. The letter below sets out the National Quality Board’s advice to the Secretary of State on how these and future quality standards can become a central, underpinning element, of the whole quality improvement system for the NHS.
Download the NICE quality standards http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp

~ Information prescription service
Nurses and other healthcare professionals are encouraged to use the online Information Prescriptions Service (IPS) to find tailored information to give to patients about their care and treatment. The information has been provided by the NHS and major charities, and has been quality assured. The IPS can also provide a dispensing history that shows what information has been given to patients, and there is an option to add personal notes to the patient, highlighting key facts and summarising the consultation.
http://www.nhs.uk/ipg/Pages/IPStart.aspx
~ Quality of general practice in England
The King's Fund has published two papers: 'Continuity of care and the patient experience', and 'The quality of GP diagnosis and referral' and is inviting comments on these subjects. An Inquiry panel commissioned a research project to examine good practice in relation to continuity of care and to assess whether, and how, this might be measured. The first paper explores patients' and clinicians' perspectives on good practice in relation to continuity of care, and considers how GPs can stimulate and maintain continuity. The second paper looks at variations in the quality of diagnosis and referral across general practice, and identifies evidence-based ways to improve the quality of this aspect of GP care.
Continuity of care -
GP diagnosis and referral

~ High-quality commissioning: role of external organisations
The King's Fund has published 'Building high-quality commissioning: what role can external organisations play?'. This report examines how external support is being used by primary care trusts and strategic health authorities and whether it is helping them to develop more effective commissioning. This research shows that the use of external support is now standard practice in the NHS. There was evidence that in many cases external organisations had succeeded in improving commissioning processes and could provide support in key areas such as data analysis and commercial skills. However, it was also clear that external support is not always used effectively. The report provides guidance for commissioners, policy-makers and providers of support on how to avoid those pitfalls and ensure best value from external support. The recommendations made will be relevant to GP commissioning consortia as well as to PCTs.
http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/building.html

~ Midwives need to cut admin and travel time
A team from the NHS Confederation’s foundation trust network looked at the working day of staff at 13 trusts and found practitioners spend 40 per cent of their time on administration and travel - nearly as long as they spend on antenatal and postnatal care.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice-clinical-research/clinical-subjects/midwifery/midwives-need-to-cut-travel-time/5016696.article

~ ‘Shambolic’ practice nurse training leads to reliance on drug companies
Increasingly patchy funding for practice nurse training is encouraging “uneasy” alliances with the pharmaceutical industry, according to a Nursing Times investigation. Practice nurses are often responsible for running vaccination programmes and smoking cessation clinics. Senior health figures have warned the reliance on drugs firms for training risks biasing clinical decisions and creating skills gaps in areas of low commercial interest.

~ High impact actions for nursing and midwifery
RCN members in England are being encouraged to sign up to the high impact actions for nursing and midwifery. The initiative aims to involve and encourage all nurses and midwives in England to work together to implement the high impact actions across the country to improve quality and reduce costs. The actions were developed following a call for action that asked frontline staff to submit examples of high quality and cost effective care which, if adopted widely across the NHS, would make a difference.
http://www.institute.nhs.uk/building_capability/general/aims/

Parenteral nutrition: a mixed bag
NCEPOD (National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death) has published 'Parenteral Nutrition: A Mixed Bag'. This report highlights the process of care of patients who receive Parenteral Nutrition. These are patients with a compromised nutritional status, where oral or enteral feeding is not an option. The report takes a critical look at areas where the care of patients might have been improved. Remediable factors have been identified in the clinical and the organisational care of these patients. http://213.198.120.192/2010pn.htm
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