Welcome to the Quality and Safety eBulletin

This eBulletin brings you the latest news from key national agencies and initiatives across the UK, under themed headings.

We welcome your feedback on the eBulletin. Please contact us at: qualityandsafety@rcn.org.uk

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All the latest in quality and safety with the RCN’s Quality and Safety Bulletin.

News story

Refreshed learning resources

These online resources are free to access and provide an introduction to a growing range of nursing essentials. They can help you with your continuing professional development (CPD) and revalidation. There are six resources: continence, diabetes essentials, motor neurone disease, end of life care and nutrition and First Steps for health care assistants.

See: Online learning resources

RCN highlights

RCN holds second pay day protests. On 27th July the RCN held protests in 40 locations across the UK as part of the RCN’s Summer of Protest demanding the Government scraps the public sector pay cap. New RCN figures show the number of experienced nurses quitting the profession has doubled since 2013-14.

Scrap the cap rally set for September. The RCN is holding the rally in central London to increase pressure on politicians to scrap the cap. The rally will take place on Wednesday 6 September from 12.30-2.30pm.


Cuts to district nursing threaten elderly care. An independent report has revealed that cuts to district nursing mean older people are turning to acute hospital care. Industry experts, including the RCN, contributed to research which found that the number of district nurses has dropped by 44% since 2010.


The Daily Mile. Nearly 2,000 schools in the UK have signed up to participate in The Daily Mile. This is an initiative aimed at improving the wellbeing of children in schools. All the children in the school are encouraged and supported to run for a mile each day during the school day.

https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/blogs/the-daily-mile

Making surrogacy clearer. The Department of Health (DoH) have put together a project group to publish guidance on surrogacy for health care professionals.


The role of the nurse in digital rectal examination and manual evacuation. Bowel care is a fundamental area of patient care that is frequently overlooked, yet it is of paramount importance for the quality of life of our patients.


RCN Bulletin 353: July 2017. Read about the RCN’s pay day protests, responding to major incidents in this month’s RCN Bulletin, NI Nurse of the Year and starting out as a newly registered nurse.


Improving Digital Literacy. This report details the work undertaken to date on the digital literacy programme of work and highlights the RCN’s focus on developing digital capabilities in the nursing and midwifery workforce and why this will bring tangible benefits to citizens and patients.

https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-006129

RCN Leadership: Demonstrating value. In challenging financial times it is important to demonstrate the value of services and make well-informed decisions about the sustainability, development and transformation of services, within a whole systems perspective. The RCN Demonstrating Value programme imparts the skills, tools and techniques needed to demonstrate value of service innovations and negotiate with key decision makers, to secure commitment for your service and support for ongoing development.

https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/professional-services/leadership-programmes/demonstrating-value

Events

24 August 2017. Amba Hotel Marble Arch, Bryanston St, Marylebone, London W1H 7EH. RCN School Nurses Conference and Exhibition 2017. This RCN conference will provide a valuable opportunity for you to meet other like-minded nurses and remain professionally up to date. Aimed at all nurses working in schools and educational settings, including those from academies, independent, free and boarding schools.

https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/school-nurses

14 Sep 2017 - 15 Sep Cardiff City Hall, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3ND. 23rd International Mental Health Nursing Research (MHN) Conference 2017. The International Mental Health Nursing Research Conference is the Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research Conference re-imagined and reinvented.

20 Sep 2017. Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London W1G 0RN. Older People's Services: clinicians leading together. RCN Older People's forum and BGS joint conference. This is your opportunity to take part by submitting an abstract for presentation. Make your voice heard and share new solutions to older people's care whilst inspiring attendees to achieve personal excellence in the care of older people.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/older-peoples-conference

21 Sep 2017. Novotel Hotel, 50 Arundel Gate, Sheffield S1 2PR. Best Practice in Procurement for Quality and Safety. The event is aimed at senior leaders, including nurses and those working in procurement and finance and it will give colleagues from across the North of England the opportunity to share best practice in procurement.

**Quality improvement**

Audit, reviews, legislation, inspections, regulation

Care Quality Commission. The state of care in mental health services 2014 to 2017. This report details the findings from CQC inspections of specialist mental health services over the last three years. The report identifies several areas of concern: difficulties around accessing services, physical environments not designed to keep people safe, care that is over-restrictive and institutional in nature, and poor recording and sharing of information that undermines the efforts of staff to work together to make sure that people get the right care at the right time.

Department of Health. Blood donation changes, following a scientific review. How the rules around blood donation will change for some groups of people, following a clinical study with recommendations.
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-people-will-be-able-to-give-blood-following-scientific-review

National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients. NABCOP 2017 Annual Report. This document reports the findings from the first year of work conducted by the National Audit of Breast Cancer in Older Patients (NABCOP). It describes the various aspects of the care provided by NHS breast cancer units in England and in Wales.

NHS Digital. National Diabetes Audit 2015-2016. People with diabetes who have had annual diabetes checks regularly in the preceding seven years have a mortality rate which is half the rate of those who have not, according to the latest publication from the National Diabetes Audit 2015-16.
https://www.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB30030

NHS England. NHS England announces new ambulance service standard. NHS England has announced a new set of performance targets for ambulance services, which will apply to all 999 calls for the first time. The new targets will save lives and remove “hidden” and long waits suffered by millions of patients.

NHS National Institute for Health Research. Research with care homes. This review reports on three themes relating to the care of older people in care homes: Living well – maintaining good health and quality of life, ageing well – managing long term conditions associated with ageing, and dying well – ensuring a good quality end of life.
http://www.dc.nihr.ac.uk/themed-reviews/advancing-care.htm

**Guidance, innovation, tools**

Academy of Paediatrics. Pictograms, units and dosing tools and parent medication errors. Poorly designed labels and dosing tools contribute to dosing errors. This study examined the degree to
which errors could be reduced with pictographic diagrams, milliliter-only units, and provision of tools more closely matched to prescribed volumes.

BMC health Services Research. Cancer related fatigue- guidelines for optimal management. This study aimed to identify barriers and enablers to applying a cancer fatigue guideline and to derive implementation strategies.

BMC Health Services Research. What characterizes the work culture at a hospital unit that successfully implements change? The aim of this study is to explore the factors that characterize the work culture in a hospital unit that successfully implemented change compared with the factors that characterize the work culture of a hospital unit with unsuccessful implementation.

Health Education England. Developing an asset based approach. Health Education England’s practical guide, developed with the National Council for Palliative Care, uses end of life care as an example to take the asset based approach further, using learning and key principles to demonstrate how it can improve learning and development across the system.

Practice examples and case studies

Health Education England. Nursing associate case studies published. Health Education England (HEE) has now published a range of case studies on the pilot nursing associate role programme, featuring the new trainees.

NHS Employers. Ways of working flexibly. Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust has maximised flexible working opportunities in its speech and language therapy (SLT) service to reduce agency spend, improve the working lives of staff and to support wider work taking place across the trust.

NHS Wales Informatics Service. Welsh Results Reporting Service and Blood Transplants case study. The introduction of a new computer system in hospitals has reduced the need for Blood and Marrow transplant patients to travel long distances to clinics after their treatment.

Reports, commentary, statistics

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing. Creative health: the arts for health and wellbeing. This report discusses the return on the investment that art can bring to health and social care services; how art can help meet major challenges presented by ageing, long-term conditions, loneliness and mental health; and that the arts can contribute to wellbeing and a longer, high-quality of life.

BBC News. Nine lifestyle changes can reduce dementia risk. One in three cases of dementia could be prevented if more people looked after their brain health throughout life, according to an international study in the Lancet. It lists nine key risk factors including lack of education, hearing loss, smoking and physical inactivity.
Carers UK. State of caring 2017. This report finds that four in ten unpaid carers have not had a break in over one year, whilst one in four had not received a single day away from caring in five years. It also found that carers most frequently listed access to breaks as one of three factors which could make a difference in their lives (42 per cent).

Commonwealth Fund. Mirror, mirror 2017: international comparison reflects flaws and opportunities for better U.S. health care. The UK has been rated first out of 11 countries in a report on international healthcare systems. The report ranks the UK first overall and first for care process (prevention, safe care, coordination, and patient engagement) and equity (comparison of performance for higher- and lower-income individuals).

Department of Health. Towards a smokefree generation: a tobacco control plan for England. This document outlines the government's plans to reduce smoking in England, with the aim of creating a smokefree generation by the end of 2022.

Department of Health. Adult social care: quality matters. The Quality Matters initiative is co-led by partners from across the adult social care sector. This report sets out a single view of quality and a commitment to improvement. The summary action plan sets out six priority areas to make progress on improving quality in the first year.

Health Foundation. New approaches to value in health care. This report was written for those seeking to add value to people’s lives and mobilise the value that people and communities themselves can create for health and wellbeing. The paper suggests call to actions, which could be adopted immediately by local areas or New Care Model programme vanguard sites.

Home Office. 2017 drug strategy. This strategy sets out how the government and its partners, at local, national and international levels, will take new action to tackle drug misuse and the harms it causes. It builds on an existing approach to preventing drug misuse, supporting people to recover from dependence and restricting the supply of drugs.

Institute of Health Equity. Marmot indicators 2017. This briefing provides an update on progress since the 2008 Marmot Review into the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England. This update finds that improvements on life expectancy at birth and remaining life expectancy at 65 have slowed since 2010.

King’s Fund. Quality improvement in mental health. Quality improvement approaches – increasingly well-established in NHS acute hospitals – could play a key role in improving the quality of mental health care. This report looks at how mental health organisations can implement quality improvement and outlines the benefits this can bring.

NHS England. NHS England launches action plan to drive out wasteful and ineffective drug prescriptions, saving NHS over £190 million a year. NHS England has published detailed plans to cut out prescriptions for ineffective, over-priced and low value treatments. Helping to trim hundreds of millions from the nation’s rapidly growing drugs bill will create headroom to reinvest all savings in newer and more effective NHS medicines and treatments. https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/07/medicine-consultation/

Nuffield Trust. The fairest of them all? Examining the NHS's global ranking. While the NHS was recently judged again to be the best health care system from 11 different nations, Nigel Edwards reflects on why it doesn’t do quite so well on clinical outcomes. The UK came top of the Commonwealth Fund’s “Mirror, Mirror” league table of performance again this year. Our high placing is perhaps not surprising – as the title implies, it seems that the main purpose of the report is to allow the US think-tank to hold a mirror up to the US health system, and show how poorly it performs. https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-the-fairest-of-them-all-examining-the-nhs-s-global-ranking


Social Market Foundation. Local public services 2040. This report sets out to understand what factors could affect the future of local public services over the next two decades and what new roles for local government could exist by 2040. http://www.smf.co.uk/local-government-2040-councils-must-embrace-risk-change-survive/

World Health Organization. Tobacco control playbook. This resource highlights the arguments and approaches that leaders in health systems across Europe have developed and used to counteract and succeed against the tobacco industry. http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/tobacco/news/news/2017/07/using-experience-and-lessons-learned-to-help-countries-combat-tobacco-industry-tactics

**Patient safety**

BMJ Quality and Safety. Can patient involvement improve patient safety? “Rates of adverse events during hospitalisation have been estimated at between 3% and 16% globally and, despite increasing attention, have demonstrated very little improvement over the last 10 years. The role that patients could play in promoting safety and reducing adverse events is now an international policy priority.” http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/26/8/622

BMJ Quality and Safety. Remembering to learn: the overlooked role of remembrance in safety improvement. “Memory, and remembering the past, are fundamental to patient safety. One of the core objectives of safety improvement is to learn from the past in order to improve the future.” http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/26/8/678
Haelo. Better questions safer care. A new interactive guide to support improvements in patient care and safety. The guide builds on work for the Measuring and Monitoring of Safety Framework with the Health Foundation, and contains a range of useful resources to help health and care professionals to take a more holistic approach when looking at the safety of care.
http://www.haelo.org.uk/patientsafetyguide/

International Journal of Quality in Health Care. Researching safety culture: deliberative dialogue with a restorative lens. The authors propose a methodological approach for safety culture research, which integrates the theory and practice of restoration science with the principles and methods of deliberative dialogue to support active engagement in critical reflection and collective debate.

International Journal of Quality in Health Care. A World Health Organization field trial assessing a proposed ICD-11 framework for classifying patient safety event. The World Health Organization is currently revising its International Classification of Diseases (ICD). For the first time, the ICD revision process has included consideration of how the coding system can lead to effective measurement of quality and safety.

International Journal of Quality in Health Care. Lessons learned for reducing the negative impact of adverse events on patients, health professionals and healthcare organizations. This study aimed to summarize the knowledge about the aftermath of adverse events and develop a recommendation set to reduce their negative impact in patients, health professionals and organizations.

International Journal for Quality in Health Care. Using an online quiz-based reinforcement system to teach health care quality and patient safety and care transitions at the University of California. Quiz-based reinforcement systems show promise in fostering active engagement, collaboration, healthy competition and real-time formative feedback, although further research on their effectiveness is required.
https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles?papetoc

National Academy of Medicine. Burnout Among Health Care Professionals: A Call to Explore and Address This Underrecognized Threat to Safe, High-Quality Care. This discussion paper looks at the extent of the issue, the implications it can have (including for quality and safety) the factors that can contribute and where research is needed to better the understanding of burnout.

Ovid Insights. Effectiveness of pharmacist intervention to reduce medication errors and health care resources utilisation and transitions of care. Medication errors are common during transitions of care. The main objective of the current investigation was to examine the effectiveness of pharmacist-based transition of care interventions on the reduction of medication errors after hospital discharge.

SHOT (Serious Hazards of Transfusion). Annual SHOT report 2016. Overall, transfusion components themselves are very safe, but there is clearly room for improvement in practice. The pattern of reports in 2016 was much the same as in previous years, however the absolute number and percentage related to error has increased; 87.0%, 2688/3091. Similarly 98.1% of serious adverse event (SAE) reports to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) resulted from error.
https://www.shotuk.org/shot-reports/

Evidence-based practice
NHS England. NHS RightCare Pathway for Diabetes published. The diabetes pathway defines the core components of an optimal diabetes service for people with or at risk of developing Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes that delivers the better value in terms of outcomes and cost.
National Institute for Health Research. Advancing care. This review reports on three themes relating to the care of older people in care homes: Living well – maintaining good health and quality of life, ageing well – managing long term conditions associated with ageing, and dying well – ensuring a good quality end of life.
http://www.dc.nihr.ac.uk/themed-reviews/advancing-care.htm

National Institute for Health Research. Review of Nutrition and Human Health Research. The NIHR and the Medical Research Council (MRC) have identified three courses of action to take place immediately, which will be followed with longer term activities. The three key pillars will be: A UK nutrition and human health research partnership; developing plans for global nutrition research and working with the food industry.
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/review-of-nutrition-and-human-health-research/6563

National Institute for Health Research. Moderate exercise and dieting reduces risk of caesarean section. Pregnant women who have a healthy diet and regular moderate exercise are less likely to have a caesarean section, gain excessive weight, or develop diabetes in pregnancy, according to a study led by Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) using data from over 12,000 women.

National Institute for Health Research. Obsessive compulsive disorder. New NIHR research shows promise for using self-help materials combined with modest levels of support from mental health practitioners, while patients wait for more intensive treatment.
http://www.dc.nihr.ac.uk/highlights/ocd/

NICE. Parkinson’s disease in adults. This guideline covers diagnosing and managing Parkinson’s disease in people aged 18 and over. It aims to improve care from the time of diagnosis, including monitoring and managing symptoms, providing information and support, and palliative care.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng71

NICE. Early breast cancer (preventing recurrence and improving survival). This evidence summary discusses a meta-analysis of individual participant data from 26 randomised controlled trials (RCTs) including 18,766 women with early breast cancer.
https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/es15/chapter/key-points

Royal College of Physicians. Research for all: Sharing good practice in research management. This report outlines the conditions needed to support research directors, managers, clinical and non-clinical staff and, ultimately, patients.
https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/news/rcp-lau-nches-research-all-sharing-good-practice-research-management

Patient focus
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. Comparator report on patient access to cancer medicines in Europe revisited – a UK perspective. This report shows that the UK is trailing behind the rest of Europe in people aged 18 and over. It finds that British patients have worse survival rates after five years – the international benchmark for measuring the quality of cancer care – compared to the European average in nine out of ten cancers.

Health Education England. Person-Centred Approaches Core Skills Education and Training Framework. The new framework, helps workers communicate meaningfully both verbally and non-verbally, tailoring the care and advice they give to suit peoples’ needs. It supports individuals to better manage their own health and wellbeing through bespoke care, planning and support.
http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/services/item/575-person-centred-approaches-cstf-download

Health Expectations. Approaches towards optimising individualised, high-quality, evidence-informed care. Health-care professionals and service providers are constantly striving to find the best ways of delivering high-quality, individualised, evidence-informed care. Critical to the process is shared decision-making, exchange of information and patient and public engagement at all levels from the
clinical encounter to policy development. Other essential characteristics are communication, partnership working, therapeutic relationships, and respect for dignity, cultural sensitivity and team working.  

Health Expectations. How best to use and evaluate Patient Information Leaflets given during a consultation: a systematic review of literature reviews. PILs are considered to be very useful, especially for acute conditions where the patient is the first to suffer from lack of information. We propose checklists for writing, designing, using and evaluating PILs in RCTs to enable comparisons between different studies.  

Health Expectations. How and why should we engage parents as co-researchers in health research? A scoping review of current practices. The importance of engaging parents in health research as co-researchers is gaining growing recognition.  

Hospice UK. Open up hospice care. One in four people who require end of life care are not getting the support they need. Open Up Hospice Care aims to raise awareness about hospice care being available to all people, regardless of who they are; their sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability or illness.  
http://www.hospiceuk.org/support-us/campaigns/open-up-hospice-care

Involve. MH:2K Oldham: a youth-led approach to exploring mental health. This project aimed to engage young people in conversations about mental health in Oldham. It aimed to empower 14-25 year olds to identify the mental health issues that they viewed as most important; engage their peers in exploring these topics; and work with local decision-makers to make recommendations for change.  
http://www.involve.org.uk/2017/07/12/mh2k-oldham-report-and-resources/

Local Government and Social Ombudsman. The right to decide: towards a greater understanding of mental capacity and deprivation of liberty. This report finds that vulnerable people are being forced into situations against their will because care providers are not going through the proper processes. The report offers advice and guidance to social care professionals on how to get things right when working with people who may lack mental capacity.  


Royal College of Midwives. Every mother must get the help they need. This report is inspired by the Change.org petition of Lucie Holland, whose sister died in tragic circumstances as a result of a devastating mental illness. Lucie set up the petition in 2015 calling for better awareness and care for those affected by perinatal mental illness.  

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Asset-based places. A model for development. An asset-based approach places the emphasis on people’s and communities’ assets, alongside their needs. This briefing suggests a framework for local areas to enable asset-based approaches to thrive.  

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Co-production Week webinar recording. View a recording of SCIE’s recent webinar on effective co-production with people who use services and carers to developing better public services.  
http://www.scie.org.uk/co-production/week/

eHealth
Department of Health. Your data: better security, better choice, better care. This report outlines the government's response to the Caldicott Review and the Care Quality Commission's review on data protection in the NHS. The response makes commitments to the safeguarding of information with the creation of the National Data Guardian's position as a statutory position and the introduction of stronger sanctions to protect anonymised data. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-responds-on-cyber-security-and-data


Digitalhealth.net. £86 million central funding pot for healthcare technology. An £86 million fund for investment in innovative healthcare technology has been announced by the government – it will include the launch of a new Digital Health Catalyst. The multi-million pound fund will support small and medium sized enterprises to develop, test and integrate new technologies in the NHS. https://www.digitalhealth.net/2017/07/86-million-central-funding-pot-for-healthcare-technology/

Digitalhealth.net. Confidence in achieving NHS 2020 digitisation targets falls. Digital Health Intelligence’s annual survey of NHS IT leaders has found levels of confidence on achieving national targets on achieving a paperless health service and delivering integrated digital health and care records by 2020 have dropped over the past 12 months. https://www.digitalhealth.net/2017/07/confidence-in-achieving-nhs-2020-digitisation-targets-falls/

Journal of Medical Internet Research. WhatsApp messenger as an adjunctive tool for telemedicine. The advent of telemedicine has allowed physicians to deliver medical treatment to patients from a distance. Mobile apps such as WhatsApp Messenger, an instant messaging service, came as a novel concept in all fields of social life, including medicine. The use of instant messaging services has been shown to improve communication within medical teams by providing means for quick teleconsultation, information sharing, and starting treatment as soon as possible. http://www.jmir.org/2017/2/e11/

Journal of Medical Internet Research. Nurse-moderated internet-based support for new mothers. The aim of this study was to test the non-inferiority of outcomes for mothers and infants who received a clinic-based postnatal health check plus nurse-moderated, Internet-based group support when infants were aged 1-7 months as compared with outcomes for those who received standard care consisting of postnatal home-based support provided by a community nurse. http://www.jmir.org/2017/7/e258/

King’s Fund. Managing digital change successfully in health and social care. The King’s Fund will be conducting a literature review into the use of digital technology in care and producing a series of case studies of targeted provider organisations that have already undergone significant organisation-wide digital transformation, attempting to find the common challenges and benefits brought by their projects. https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/managing-digital-change-health-social-care


NHS Health Research Authority. Electronic vs ink signatures approval documents. The use of electronic signatures and authorisations is becoming increasingly common. There has been queries about their validity in protocols and other documents and the Health Research Authority would like to
clarify that they accept them as an alternative to ink signatures.  

**Staff focus**
Audit Scotland. Scotland's NHS needs better workforce planning. Spending on staff in Scotland's NHS is increasing and overall staff numbers are at their highest level ever but there are urgent workforce challenges, and the Scottish Government and health boards have not planned effectively for the long term.  

BMC Public Health. Vitamin D levels and deficiency with different occupations. Shift-workers, healthcare workers and indoor workers are at high risk to develop vitamin D deficiency as they see the sun only in the morning and evening, when its rays are less intense, so their skin is less able to naturally produce the vitamin.  
https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-017-4436-z

Centre for Health and the Public Interest. Sustainability and transformation plans: five key questions for planners. This analysis identifies five key questions to ask of each of STP area to assess the potential impact of each plan. The scrutiny framework that this paper outlines focuses particularly on workforce planning.  
https://chpi.org.uk/publications/analyses/sustainability-and-transformation-plans-5-key-questions-for-planners/

Department of Health. Senior Salaries Review Body report 2017. This report sets out the Senior Salaries Review Body's analysis of evidence given by relevant organisations and makes proposals on the pay of the judiciary, senior civil servants, senior officers of the armed forces and executive and senior managers in Department of Health arm’s length bodies.  

Department of Health. Strength-based social work practice with adults. This report is for social workers, senior leaders of adult social care, and people who use the services.  

Department of Health. NHS bursary scheme rules 2017. This guidance from NHS Business Services Authority contains information about the NHS bursary scheme, with new rules applicable for the academic year 2017 to 2018.  

Department of Health. 2017-18 education & training placement tariffs: tariff guidance and prices from 1st April 2017. This document sets out the national tariffs for healthcare education and training placements for 2017/18; how the tariffs will be implemented; and in what circumstances the national tariffs may be varied and how to do this.  

General Medical Council. Regional review of medical education and training in the East Midlands: 2016. This report outlines the findings of a review of medical training and education in the East Midlands. Doctors in training in the region highlighted concerns around patient safety and continuity of care due to inadequate handovers between teams.  

Health Education England. Nursing associate case studies published. Health Education England (HEE) has now published a range of case studies on the pilot nursing associate role programme, featuring the new trainees.  
King's Fund. Why we shouldn't panic about nursing students... yet. With a shortage of qualified nurses in England already a cause for concern, David Maguire considers whether the decision to scrap the NHS bursary scheme is likely to exacerbate the problem.

https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2017/07/why-we-shouldnt-panic-about-nursing-students-yet

NHS Digital. More than 80,000 NHS posts vacant. NHS Vacancy Statistics England, February 2015 - March 2017. This is the latest biannual provisional experimental publication of the NHS vacancy statistics created from administrative data related to job advertisements published on NHS Jobs, the main recruitment website for the NHS.

http://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB30033

NHS Employers. Ways of working flexibly. Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust has maximised flexible working opportunities in its speech and language therapy (SLT) service to reduce agency spend, improve the working lives of staff and to support wider work taking place across the trust. http://www.nhsemployers.org/news/2017/07/new-flexible-working-shared-learning

Point of Care Foundation. Behind closed doors. Can we expect NHS staff to be the shock absorbers of a system under pressure? This briefing highlights the latest evidence on NHS staff, their experience at work, the pressures they face and the consequences for patients.


Royal College of Midwives. RCM launches fair pay campaign. The Royal College of Midwives has launched its ‘Fair Pay Overdue’ campaign. This calls on the Government to end pay restraint in the NHS and commit to fully fund a pay rise for midwives, maternity support workers and other NHS staff.


Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. Paediatric rota gaps and vacancies 2017. This year's survey focused on the impact of the 2016 junior doctors' contract and 67 per cent of respondents report that the contract is having a negative impact on recruitment and retention.