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

Claire Constable, Sarah Raybone and Ross Scrivener
RCN Nursing Department

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

News story

New supporting behaviour change resource launched
This resource will give you an overview of motivational interviewing and will provide you with a 'change toolkit' to use when discussing change with your clients.
See: Supporting behaviour change

RCN highlights
Get ready to ballot on industrial action. RCN Council will move towards balloting on industrial action if the pay cap isn't lifted in the Budget. Whether you want to take action or not, we need your correct details.
https://my.rcn.org.uk/my-details

Safe staffing. Nursing staff shortages are compromising patient care. Find out about our safe staffing work and how you can get involved. We have published two reports to date, Safe and Effective
https://www.rcn.org.uk/employment-and-pay/safe-staffing

Urgent action needed to tackle staffing crisis. RCN calls for new legislation as thousands of members reveal chronic nursing shortages. The results paint a perturbing picture of staff stretched to the limit and compromised patient care.

Janet Davies Blog. You told us that staff shortages are compromising patient care. Janet Davies discusses the latest RCN report on staffing levels: Safe and Effective Staffing: Nursing Against the Odds.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/employment-and-pay/safe-staffing

Ballot could be called if cap remains in place. The RCN will move towards balloting members on industrial action if the 1% cap on NHS pay is not lifted in the November budget.

Check out the latest RCN blogs. RCN Professional Lead for Public Health, Helen Donovan, explains why immunisation is key for all nursing staff, the RCN’s new credentialing scheme, staffing levels, and Dame Professor Donna Kinnair discusses how nursing was represented at the recent Labour Party Conference.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/blogs

RCN Bulletin 356. The October issue of the RCN Bulletin is now out. What's it like nursing in the UK’s largest prison? Find out in this month’s RCN Bulletin. Also in this issue: the RCN calls for new safe staffing legislation.

Activate Vol 12, No 1: September 2017. News, views and support for RCN activists, including the latest on the Scrap the Cap campaign and the RCN’s position on sustainability and transformation plans (STPs).

Events

Travel health roadshows. Jane Chiodini, Director of Travel Health Training Ltd and the RCN bring you this essential updates in travel health. Cardiff 22 November, Birmingham 29 November and London 9 December 2017.

RCN Critical Care Workshop 2017, 21 October 2017, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. Are you a nurse, healthcare professional or student working in the field of critical care? Then this workshop is essential for you.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/critical-care

Seeing is Believing III: Looking Forward, RCN Ophthalmic Nursing Forum Conference and Exhibition 2017. 4 November 2017, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. Whether you are new to this niche field of nursing or an experienced professional, this event gives you a platform to reflect on how you can improve your practice and the patient experience.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/on17

Society of Orthopaedics and Trauma Nursing Conference and Exhibition 2017. 14 November, Crowne Plaza Chester, Trinity Street, Chester, CH1 2BD. Explore the challenges and innovations in orthopaedic and fracture trauma care for patients, ranging from children and young people to the older person.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/sotn
Brexit and Beyond! An international perspective on health care. RCN Fellows Lecture, 14 November 2017, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. What impact will the Brexit process have on health care? And how have the NHS and other health services benefited from immigration, from Europe and beyond?

Hawking Annual MND Lecture. 22 November 2017, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. We are privileged to welcome Professor Carolyn Young, from the Walton Centre Liverpool, to lead our important inaugural Annual MND lecture with an explanation of the ground-breaking TONiC study.

Quality improvement
Audit, reviews, legislation, inspections, regulation

Department of Health. Infected blood scheme reform. The government has announced reforms to payments supporting people who received infected blood during NHS treatment in the 1970s and 1980s.

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. Regulating clinical trials. This briefing describes the new EU Clinical Trial Regulation and the timetable for its implementation and examines its likely impact on the regulation of clinical trials in the UK post-Brexit.
http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0561

Public Health England. Quality checking health checks for people with learning disabilities. This audit tool consists of six questions and is designed to support practices, primary care liaison staff and health facilitators to improve the uptake and quality of annual health checks, and reduce the health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities.

Public Health England. Psychoactive substances in secure mental health settings. This review summarises the latest evidence and makes recommendations for secure mental health service commissioners and providers.

Guidance, innovation, tools

King’s Fund. Compassion and innovation in the NHS. Michael West highlights a new programme to support NHS organisations in creating compassionate cultures to stimulate innovation.

NHS England. Action plan on hearing loss: what works guides. The Action plan on hearing loss, produced in 2015, identified ways that services for people with hearing loss could be improved. This series of guides aims to support employers and service providers in delivering on the recommendations outlined in the plan.

NHS England. New quality of life measure for recovering cancer patients. In a world leading move, quality of life for cancer patients will be tracked as part of ambitious plans by NHS England to radically improve care and support for people once treatment ends.

Public Health England. People with learning disabilities: making reasonable adjustments. These guides explain why reasonable adjustments must be made to health services and what adjustments help people with learning disabilities access services.
World Bank. Drug resistant infections. The World Bank has produced this infographic on the threat posed by antimicrobial resistance.  

Practice examples and case studies

Dr Foster. Supporting a trust in turning around mortality issues. Dr Andy Haynes discusses how Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust successfully collaborated with Dr Foster to turn around their mortality issues.  

Guardian Health. Reinventing mental health care by putting patients in charge. A personal experience of a mental health service user which helped them to set up and run a suicide crisis centre.  

Routledge. Health systems improvement across the globe: success stories from 60 countries. Following on from 2015’s Healthcare Reform, Quality and Safety: Perspectives, Participants, Partnerships and Prospects in 30 Countries, this book encompasses a global perspective on healthcare while shifting the focus from reform to showcasing success stories of healthcare systems worldwide.  

Reports, commentary, statistics

Breast Cancer Now. UK breast cancer progress ‘stalling’ as NHS continues to miss. According to this report, progress on breast cancer in the UK is ‘stalling’ as a lack of leadership continues to prevent research breakthroughs from reaching patients and sees the NHS miss clear opportunities to save lives.  

British Red Cross. Prevention in action. This report argues that local authorities in England must do more in their areas to provide services that prevent, reduce or delay the need for care and support. It analyses the impact of the Care Act on the provision of preventive services and finds that the Act’s vision for prevention is not being fully realised.  

Care and Support Alliance. Social workers speak out about the state of care today. The Care and Support Alliance1 and Community Care2 magazine ran an online survey on Community Care’s website between 12 April and 9 June 2017.  

Centre for Mental Health. Adult and older adult mental health services 2012-2016. The NHS Benchmarking Network has made their mental health data available to the Centre for Mental Health to provide an independent commentary on what the data suggests about mental health provision in England and Wales between 2012 and 2016.  
https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/adult-and-older-adult-mental-health-services-2012-2016

Civitas. Britain’s demographic challenge: the implications of the UK’s rapidly increasing population.
This report looks at the scale of the growing population of the UK, sets it in historical and international context and considers the challenges that it will present. It considers the implications including the need for new hospitals.


Guardian Health. NHS nurses are too busy to care for patients properly. Survey of 30,000 nurses finds 53% fear quality of care is suffering, and some patients are being left to die alone.


House of Commons. Sustainability and transformation plans and partnerships. This briefing covers the context in which sustainability and transformation partnerships have been developed, their funding and accountability arrangements as well as their progress so far.

http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8093

Journal of Advanced Nursing. The economic burden of nurse-sensitive adverse events in 22 medical-surgical units: retrospective and matching analysis. This study sought to estimate the economic burden of nurse-sensitive adverse events (pressure ulcers, falls, medication administration errors, pneumonia and urinary tract infections) in 22 acute-care units in Quebec by estimating excess hospital-related costs and calculating resulting additional hospital days.


King’s Fund. NHS hospital bed numbers. The number of NHS beds in England has more than halved over the past 30 years. This briefing examines the data on hospital beds, the drivers underpinning the changes observed and considers whether STP’s proposed bed reductions are realistic.

https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/nhs-hospital-bed-numbers

NHS Clinical Commissioners. Steering towards strategic commissioning: transforming the system. This report sets out CCGs’ vision for the future and what they need to get there at pace so they can deliver more for patients.


NHS Confederation. New care models harnessing technology. Rising demand for services, constrained funding and a multitude of workforce challenges require us to think differently about the way we deliver health and care services to meet people’s needs and expectations.


NHS England. Home-testing kits that detect bowel cancer could almost halve invasive examinations by 2020. A major NHS England funded study is expected to almost halve the number of invasive procedures by 2020 by improving the accuracy of home-testing kits that detect bowel cancer from invisible amounts of blood.


Pharmaceutical Services negotiating Committee. Requirements for providing the Flu Vaccination Service in care homes and other long-stay care facilities. Community pharmacy contractors are allowed under the national Flu Vaccination Service to provide flu vaccinations in care homes and other long-stay care facilities; however, contractors must obtain permission from their local NHS England team to vaccinate these patients before they provide the service in these locations.

Public Health England. Social marketing strategy 2017 to 2020. This marketing strategy describes how PHE will use social marketing and health promotion to support the objectives of its business plan and England’s public health system. 

Public Health England. A review of new psychoactive substances in secure mental health: summary document. This document reviews the impact of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in secure mental health settings, and makes recommendations for the management of NPS use in these settings. 

Public Health England. Alcohol, drugs and tobacco: commissioning support pack. This commissioning support pack will help local authorities to develop joint strategic needs assessment and local joint health and wellbeing strategies that effectively address public health issues relating to alcohol, drug and tobacco use. 


Public Health England. Quit success rates in England 2007-17. New data published in a University College of London report shows quitting smoking success rates are at their highest for at least a decade, up to 19.8 per cent for the first six months of this year, significantly higher than the average for the past 10 years (15.7 per cent) 

Public Health England. Cervical screening: supporting women with learning disabilities. This information, originally developed in North Tyneside, is to support women with learning disabilities to access cervical screening. 

Public Health England. New liver disease atlas published. PHE has published the 2nd Atlas of Variation in Risk Factors and Healthcare for Liver Disease in England. The Atlas is made up of 39 indicators relating to liver disease, 19 of which show trend data over time. It shows the degree of variation across the country. 
https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/atlas-of-variation

Queen’s Nursing Institute. Latest trends in district nurse student numbers announced. The report indicates that the increase in District Nurse student numbers seen in recent years has slowed down. 

World Health Organization. Measles no longer endemic in 79% of WHO European Region. In the WHO European Region, 42 of 53 countries have interrupted endemic transmission of measles, and 37 countries have interrupted endemic transmission of rubella as of the end of 2016. 

**Patient safety**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Health care facility design safety risk assessment toolkit. Patient and staff safety in a hospital or other health care facility can be protected by a properly designed built environment. To support health care facility design that protects patient and staff safety, AHRQ funded the development of a Safety Risk Assessment Toolkit for facility designers. The goal of the toolkit, developed by the Centre for Health Design Link to Exit Disclaimer, is to assist in the
design of a built environment that supports workflow, procedures, and capability while ensuring the safety of patients and staff.


Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Fall prevention in hospitals. This content was developed from an AHRQ project that ran from 2014 to 2017. It is based on AHQR’s Fall Prevention Toolkit and the experiences of 10 hospitals that participated in a 2-year pilot project of the Training Program. Hospitals participating in this pilot implementation of the Training Program and Toolkit reduced their fall and fall with injury rates and sustained these reductions for a year.


American Surgeon. Medication errors in injured patients. Errors involving medications are not infrequent. This study looked at such errors in a vulnerable population: trauma patients. This study sought to assess trends in medication errors in trauma patients and the role these errors play in patient outcomes.

http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/sesc/tas/2017/00000083/00000007/art00038

Annals of Family Medicine. The nature of blame in patient safety incident reports. A culture of blame and fear of retribution are recognized barriers to reporting patient safety incidents. This study set out to explore the nature of blame in family practice safety incident reports.

http://www.annfammed.org/content/15/5/455

Department of Health. Learning from post-accident investigations to ensure patient safety. Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt explains the thinking behind the Health Service Safety Investigations Bill, and recent steps to improve patient safety.


Digitalhealth.net. Nottingham to review digital care record due to patient safety concerns. Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust is to urgently review its £14m digital records system after dozens of consultants wrote to the trust medical director expressing concerns about the system and its impact on patient safety.


House of Commons Library. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards were introduced into the Mental Capacity Act by the Mental Health Act 2007. This briefing describes recent and proposed changes, including the Law Commission review.

http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8095

Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Americans’ Experiences with Medical Errors and Views on Patient Safety. The vast majority of Americans are having positive experiences with the health care system, but 21 percent of adults report having personally experienced a medical error. When errors do occur, they often have lasting impact on the patient’s physical health, emotional health, financial well-being, or family relationships.


International journal for Quality in Health Care. Adverse events related to hospital care. Retrospective records reviews carried out in several countries have shown substantial rates of adverse events (AE) among hospitalized patients, preventable in half the cases.


Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety. User-centred collaborative design and development of an inpatient safety dashboard. This article summarizes the iterative participatory development, features, functions, and preliminary evaluation of a patient safety dashboard for interdisciplinary rounding teams on inpatient medical services.

Patient-reported safety incidents as a new source of patient safety data. This study aims to compare a new co-designed, patient incident reporting tool with three established methods of detecting patient safety incidents and identify if the same incidents are recorded across methods.

http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1355819617727563


NHS Improvement. Patient Safety Alert: Risk of severe harm and death from infusing total parenteral nutrition too rapidly in babies. From incident reporting, three main types of error were identified: lipids infused at the rate intended for the aqueous solution, incorrect infusion rate, and miscalculation of volumes. NHS organisations should consider if immediate action is needed to be taken locally.

https://improvement.nhs.uk/uploads/documents/Patient_Safety_Alert_-_TPN_in_babies_FINAL.pdf

NICE. Sepsis – what NICE says. Read about everything NICE says on treating and managing sepsis. NICE urges hospital staff to treat people with life-threatening sepsis within one hour, in its quality standard.


Nursing Forum. Human factors that contribute to nursing errors. Human and system failures have been the subject of an abundance of research, yet nursing errors continue to occur.

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nuf.12178/abstract;jsessionid=B3EE136A857A5AD1279242E3B534C462.f02t01

Qualitative Health Research. Recognising and responding to the “toxic” work environment: worker safety, patient safety and abuse/neglect in nursing homes. This grounded theory study examined how the certified nursing assistant (CNA) understands and responds to bullying in the workplace. Findings highlight the relationship between worker and patient safety, and suggest worker safety outcomes may be an indicator of quality in nursing homes.

http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1049732317723889

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Safeguarding adults. SCIE has identified some common safeguarding challenges. This paper highlights key issues including: local authorities’ decisions about enquiries; implementing the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards; and supporting people at risk who do not have care and support needs.

https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/highlights

World Health Organization. Antibacterial agents in clinical development. WHO has published a report showing that there is a serious lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/rational_use/antibacterial_agents_clinical_development/en/

Evidence-based practice

NICE. Intermediate care including reablement. This guideline sets out how health and social care staff can support people to be independent following a hospital stay or when daily life at home becomes too difficult. It covers how to assess intermediate care needs, including setting goals with the person so that they can overcome the problems they are experiencing.

https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG74

NICE. Smoking cessation interventions and services: guideline consultation. This draft guideline covers stop smoking interventions and services delivered in primary care and community settings. The recommendations focus on vulnerable groups who find it hard to quit or are heavy smokers. The consultation closes on 1 November 2017.

NICE. Faltering growth: recognition and management of faltering growth in children. This guideline covers recognition, assessment and monitoring of faltering growth in infants and children. It includes a definition of growth thresholds for concern and identifying the risk factors for, and possible causes of, faltering growth.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng75

NICE. Immunisations: reducing differences in uptake in under 19s. This guideline covers increasing immunisation uptake among children and young people aged under 19 years in groups and settings where immunisation coverage is low.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph21

NICE. Urinary tract infection in under 16s: diagnosis and management. This guideline covers diagnosing and managing first or recurrent upper or lower urinary tract infections in infants, children and young people.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg54

NIHR Signal. Early discharge ‘hospital-at-home’ gives similar outcomes to in-patient care. Supported early discharge, where patients receive on-going hospital-level treatment in their own home, had no effect on mortality compared with standard in-patient care. Patients had shorter hospital stays, were more likely to be satisfied and less likely to end up in residential care.

NIHR Signal. New evidence confirms three-yearly surveillance interval for people at intermediate risk of bowel cancer. This large-scale study showed that all intermediate-risk patients had increased chance of cancerous growths if the interval since initial screening exceeded three years. This supports the current UK screening schedule.

NIHR Signal. Local nerve blocks can improve outcomes for people with hip fracture. Local nerve blocks around the time of hip fracture surgery reduced pain on movement within 30 minutes of injection. People had less need for opioid pain relief and were quicker to mobilise after surgery. Also, one case of pneumonia was prevented for every seven people given pain relief using a nerve block.

Patient focus
Breast Cancer Now. Good enough? Breast cancer in the UK. This report shows that although good progress has been made in diagnosing and treating breast cancer, with more women surviving than ever before, there is still much more to do.
http://breastcancernow.org/sites/default/files/public/good_enough_-_breast_cancer_in_the_uk_-_report.pdf

British Medical Journal. Wisdom of patients: predicting the quality of care using aggregated patient feedback. To determine whether the near real-time, automated collection and aggregation of multiple sources of patient feedback can provide a collective judgement that effectively identifies risks to the quality of care, and hence can be used to help prioritise inspections.
http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2017/09/25/bmjqs-2017-006847

British Medical Journal. People's experience of hospital care on the weekend. This study aims to determine whether patients treated in hospital on the weekend report different experiences of care compared with those treated on weekdays.
http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2017/09/28/bmjqs-2016-006349

British Medical Journal. Compassionate care: not easy, not free, not only nurses. Compassion has historically been defined as an underpinning principle of work conducted by health professionals, especially nurses. For health professionals to be able to connect with patients and understand their unique situation, while also addressing fundamental needs (eg, hygiene, feeding) in a non-
mechanistic manner, an appropriately resourced workplace is required.  
http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2017/09/28/bmjqs-2017-007005

Campaign to end Loneliness. Making the economic case for investing in actions to prevent and/or tackle loneliness: a systematic review. This research, carried out by the London School of Economics, reviews the evidence on the economic impact of loneliness interventions. It finds that up to £3 of health care costs can be saved for every £1 spent on an effective intervention on loneliness.  
https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/resources/

Dementia Action Alliance. Seldom heard groups and dementia. There’s new support available for people who have dementia but who are from seldom-heard groups. On the Dementia Action Alliance website you can read about the issues faced by three groups and sign a pledge to support people from seldom heard groups.  
http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/joint_work/dementia_and_seldom_heard_groups/publications

Guardian. ‘Childline for older people’ gives friendly ear to 10,000 lonely callers each week. The Silver Line, created in 2013 by Esther Rantzen (who also created Childline), is a free, 24-hour, 365-day-a-year helpline offering information and friendship, and signposts people to local organisations for support or social activities.  

Guardian Health. Reinventing mental health care by putting patients in charge. A personal experience of a mental health service user which helped them to set up and run a suicide crisis centre.  

Journal of Health Services Research Services research & Policy. Patient-reported safety incidents as a new source of patient safety data. This study aims compare a new co-designed, patient incident reporting tool with three established methods of detecting patient safety incidents and identify if the same incidents are recorded across methods.  
http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1355819617727563

NHS England. Developing support and services for children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both. This document provides guidance for Transforming Care Partnerships (and their local CCG or local authority partners) in commissioning support and services for children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both.  

NHS England. Summary outcome report for the Pharmacy Access Scheme National Review Panel. This scheme aimed to ensure that patient access to NHS community pharmacy services is protected. This document sets out the background and context of the scheme and review process; the process for undertaking reviews; the success criteria and the number, locations and outcomes of applications.  

Unison. Making visits matter. The report Making Visits Matter highlights the ongoing crisis in the UK’s care system, with three in five (63%) respondents getting just 15 minutes to help with personal tasks such as eating and drinking, or taking a shower.  

eHealth

Australian Health Review. Effectiveness and efficiency of training in digital healthcare packages. The aim of the present study was to evaluate whether the current training program facilitates efficient and accurate use of the digital medical record in clinical practice.  
http://www.publish.csiro.au/AH/AH16090
Digitalhealth.net. Dorset NHS trusts embark on shared digital transformation journey. Peter Gill, director of informatics from Royal Bournemouth tells how three Dorset trusts have worked together to create a shared care record and have begun to move to a common platform for e-prescribing and medicines management. 

Digitalhealth.net. Peer-to-peer clinical problem-solving app launches. Doctors can now collaborate on clinical problem solving through a new smartphone app. Doctors can raise topics for discussion or get in touch with specific specialists for responses to clinical conundrums, difficult medical cases, or to share concerns such as work-load issues, training and career decisions. 
https://www.digitalhealth.net/2017/10/peer-to-peer-clinical-problem-solving-app-launches/

Health Foundation. Enabling improvement through the innovative use of data. This newsletter focuses on the use of data to improve quality in health care services. Health care teams are the most important source of innovative ideas to improve the quality of care for their patients, and they also have the enthusiasm and motivation to spread and sustain change. 
http://www.health.org.uk/newsletter/enabling-improvement-through-innovative-use-data

Journal of Medical Internet Research. Effectiveness of Telemonitoring in Obstetrics. Despite reported positive results of telemonitoring effectiveness in various health care domains, this new technology is rarely used in prenatal care. This review shows that telemonitoring can be tentatively recommended for pregnant women at risk for preterm delivery. 
http://www.jmir.org/2017/9/e327/

NHS Digital. First two trusts meet milestone of all electronic NHS referrals. Two hospital trusts and their referring GP practices have become the first in the country to adopt a digital process for booking patient hospital appointments. 

NHS England. The NHS IT Strategy. The national director of operations and information has written a blog setting out progress of the NHS strategy. 
https://www.england.nhs.uk/blog/the-nhs-it-strategy/

Telecare LIN. September 2017 Newsletter. A listing of digital health and technology enabled care references from the UK and around the world including telehealth, telecare, mobile health, telemedicine, ehealth, smart home technologies and Internet of Things. 
https://www.telecarelin.org.uk/news/newsletters/

Welsh Government. “If you want the best technology in the Welsh NHS, you have to invest in IT”. Health Secretary Vaughan Gething has announced over £5.5 million for digital priorities within the Welsh NHS. The funding will be targeted at improving access to information and introducing new ways of delivering care. 

Staff focus

BBC News. Jeremy Hunt wants 5000 new training places. More than 5,000 new places on nursing training courses are to be created each year as part of government efforts to boost the NHS workforce in England. More current NHS staff would be able to retrain as nurses through a four-year apprenticeship at local hospitals. 
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-41483974

Care Quality Commission. Freedom to Speak Up Guardian survey 2017: findings and recommendations. This report outlines the results of a survey of NHS whistleblowing guardians which aimed to understand how the role has been implemented, who is being appointed to the role and guardians’ views on the Freedom to Speak Up initiative. The report makes ten recommendations for the development of the role as a result of the findings of the survey. 
http://www.cqc.org.uk/national-guardians-office/content/national-guardians-office
Heads up. Promoting the mental health of health services staff. The mental and physical health of health professionals in Australia is an ongoing concern within the health profession and broader community.
https://www.headsup.org.au/healthy-workplaces/information-for-health-services

Health Affairs. Millennials almost twice as likely to be registered nurses as baby boomers were. Baby-boomer registered nurses (RNs), the largest segment of the RN workforce from 1981 to 2012, are now retiring. This would have led to nurse shortages but for the surprising embrace of the profession by millennials—who are entering the nurse workforce at nearly double the rate of the boomers.
http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/36/10/1804.abstract

Health Education England. New guides provide routes to clinical academic careers. Two guides to support healthcare professionals to develop clinical academic careers are launched.

Health Education England. A new film has been released highlighting the array of activities a general practice nurse can encounter in their working day. The short film is designed for pre-registration student nurses and those who may wish to transition into general practice from other areas.

House of Commons Library. Professional regulation in health and social care. This House of Commons Library briefing describes the main functions of the UK's health and social care professional regulators and outlines some of the prominent debates surrounding this area of policy and the case for reform.
http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8094

Independent. Rise in nurse training places. Jeremy Hunt will try to reverse a damaging crash in the number of applications for nurse training, with a promise of cash for fast-track courses.

NHS Employers. Improving staff retention: a guide for employers. Aimed at employers, the guide was developed from work which took place during 2016-17 where NHS Employers engaged a large number of NHS organisations to help equip them with tools and resources to shape and implement effective workforce retention plans.

Qualitative Health Research. Recognising and responding to the “toxic” work environment: worker safety, patient safety and abuse/neglect in nursing homes. This grounded theory study examined how the certified nursing assistant (CNA) understands and responds to bullying in the workplace. Findings highlight the relationship between worker and patient safety, and suggest worker safety outcomes may be an indicator of quality in nursing homes.
http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1049732317723889

Queen's Nursing Institute. New standards for general practice nurses. The QNI and QNI Scotland launched new Voluntary Standards for senior General Practice Nurses (GPNs) at the QNI conference in London.

Queens Nursing Institute. Latest trends in district nurse student numbers announced. The report indicates that the increase in District Nurse student numbers seen in recent years has slowed down. Given the numbers who retire from the service annually, the QNI is concerned that this will represent a major challenge to current and future recruitment efforts to District Nursing teams.
RCN. Safe and Effective Staffing: Nursing Against the Odds. This report recommends that health and care providers must examine whether they have enough nursing staff to provide safe patient care this winter.

https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-006415