Right care, right place, first time?
Joint statement by four medical and royal colleges on the urgent and emergency care of children and young people. This guidance for commissioners and service providers identifies clear standards and stresses the importance of good planning.

Lansley unveils 60 new performance indicators
Andrew Lansley says the Health Service must focus on what matters most to patients and improve patient outcomes, with tough new goals for hospitals.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5038892.article?referrer=e1

RCN calls for mandatory regulation of support staff
Over 2,500 nurses and healthcare assistants have signed an RCN letter to Health Minister, Earl Howe, urging acceptance of an amendment to the Health & Social Care Bill that would ensure mandatory regulation for support workers.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039474.article?referrer=e1

House of Lords rejects compulsory registration for HCAs
In late December 2011, members of the House of Lords rejected calls to make the regulation of healthcare assistants compulsory. Current wording in the Health & Social Care Bill allows for voluntary registration but many feel this is unsatisfactory. The Lords will consider this topic once more when the Bill goes to the next stage.

Nurses and Midwives Act, 2011 (Ireland) signed into legislation, 21st December, 2011.
An Bord Altranais continues to operate under the Nurses Act, 1985, pending commencement of the various provisions of the new legislation. Part 12 of the Act provides for the dissolution of the National Council for the Development of Nursing & Midwifery. Further information will be provided in due course
http://www.nursingboard.ie/en/news-article.aspx?article=e0d1b393-3e0e-48fc-b90e-f93ea509fd60

Whistleblowers being ignored, RCN survey finds
According to a recent survey, very little is done when concerns are raised by nurses about patient safety and staffing levels. In almost half of such cases of whistleblowing, no action is taken.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5038788.article?referrer=e1

Using the IHI Global Trigger Tool for Measuring Adverse Events (virtual programme)
Participants will learn how to use the IHI Global Trigger Tool to identify harmful incidents in the past and measure effectiveness of patient safety improvement initiatives. Begins February 14, 2012.
http://www.ihi.org/offerings/VirtualPrograms/Webinars/Web_Action/TriggerTool/Pages/default.aspx

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Leadership

2011 CIPD Absence Management Report
Introduction of the 'fit note' to replace the 'sick note' helps line managers to manage absence more effectively, and discuss more easily with staff the best way to help individuals back to work; indications are, however, that this is not yet improving absence levels.
http://www.cipd.co.uk/binaries/5632%20Annual%20Ab%20Man%20Sick%20WEB.pdf

Managing and supporting mental health at work: disclosure tools for managers
Guidance jointly developed by Mind and the CIPD. Most people are still reluctant to disclose a mental health issue to employers, who are urged to get staff talking about these matters in 2012 as economic difficulties could trigger a surge in mental ill health.
http://www.cipd.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1EBE4392-8610-480E-B03B-BCC9890BAED5/0/5715MentalHealthguideWEB.pdf

Nursing care standards report unveiled
A report by Birmingham University’s Health Services Management Centre has urged that senior nurses be given greater leadership responsibility in order to improve acute nursing care standards.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039564.article?referrer=e1

NHS Institute Newsletter January 2012
Information on commissioning, Productive Ward, future proofing, improvement initiatives.
http://sut1.co.uk/l/c.php?c=10964&ct=133494&si=40247641&u=

Workforce

Nurse staffing ratios linked to patient outcomes
Researchers in Finland have found “significant associations” between patient safety and nurse staffing levels.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039701.article?referrer=e26

New ‘productive’ tool launched in December
The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement has launched Productive General Practice to help practice nurses streamline appointment times and re-organise nursing schedules, to the benefit of patients and staff.

More stringent checks proposed for nurses from EU
European Union considering a ‘warning system’ for overseas health workers coming to work in the UK; more in-depth checks - on e.g. professional status, suspensions - plus stricter language tests, are being sought.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039525.article?referrer=e1
Workforce (continued)

RCN survey uncovers high incidence of verbal and physical abuse against community nurses
New survey shows that over 60% of nurses working in the community suffered abuse in the past two years.

Telehealth for millions in five years
The government has announced plans to bring telehealth technology to three million people within five years - a development which could impact significantly on the work of community nurses.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039123.article?referrer=e1

Nursing Times launches 'innovation hub' 2 December, 2011
Nursing Times is starting its own dedicated part of nursingtimes.net to showcase Nursing talent.
We are looking for currently practising nurses who have launched their own products or nurses who have designed their own products to tell our readers all about their inventions.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5038710.article?referrer=e1

Policy/Strategy

Innovation, Health and Wealth
Report prepared by NHS South of England Chief Executive Sir Ian Carruthers, has been described as a powerful and long overdue document.

NHS Commissioning Board will have 50 'branch' chief nurses
It is estimated that there will be around 50 senior nurses running regional branches of the new Commissioning Board.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039055.article?referrer=e26

Department of Health issues more details of the design of the new public health system
Factsheets providing updates on the Public Health Reform, including the role and responsibilities of local government in public health, the operating model for the new executive agency, Public Health England, and an overview of how the whole system will work.
http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/public-health-system/

NHS and councils to share elderly care role in Scotland
Scottish Health Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, announced that community health partnerships will be replaced by health and social care partnerships which will be the responsibility of both the NHS and local councils in a bid to prevent budgets being shunted between departments
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039435.article?referrer=e26

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Policy/Strategy (continued)

New start date plus additional funding for local HealthWatch bodies
Health Minister, Andrew Lansley, has announced that Local Authorities and Local Involvement Networks now have until April 2013 to establish their local HealthWatch. These new bodies will replace Local Involvement Networks and become the local consumer champion for patients, service users and the public.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/01/local-healthwatch/

A New Strategy for NHS Procurement: Securing the Future of NHS Services
17th April 2012, Manchester Conference Centre
The Department of Health is working with the NHS to draw up a new strategy for NHS procurement, to be published by 31st March 2012. Now in its fourth year, this conference is a major NHS Procurement event.

http://www.publicserviceevents.co.uk/211/a-new-strategy-for-nhs-procurement

Education/Development

Government 'persuaded' by calls for stronger duties to promote training
A proposed series of amendments to the Health Bill aims to enshrine education and training duties in legislation. Currently the Bill contains little reference to either. The government is said to be “extremely sympathetic” to these amendments.

http://www.nursingtimes.net/5038742.article?referrer=e1

NHS Education for Scotland – two new resources
NES has commissioned two new educational resources for staff working with people with a learning disability; both are interactive pdfs: Positive Behavioural Support, a Learning Resource and Working with People who have a Learning Disability and Complex Needs - the essentials.


Patient Experience

Foundation of Nursing Studies Dissemination Series: Improvement Insights
These one page summaries are replacing the four-page reports available from FoNS website previously.


NPSA guidelines to accompany new spinal devices that protect patient safety
New rapid response report from The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) aims to cut the risk of nurses and doctors giving epidural or spinal drugs incorrectly by making sure incorrect devices will not fit connectors.
The report has gone to English and Welsh NHS bodies.

http://www.nursingtimes.net/5038886.article?referrer=e1

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**Patient Experience (continued)**

**Mental health service transitions for young people**
This new guide highlights some of the key recommendations for improving transition, and the top ten principles for practice. These aim to ensure that young people are fully engaged, and move to flexible and age-appropriate services.

**Cancer aftercare scheme unveiled**
Groundbreaking scheme piloted by Macmillan Cancer Support, which will subsidise training of 10 nurses in SW England to provide holistic aftercare for cancer patients; if successful, the initiative could be implemented across the country.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039360.article?referrer=e1

**British Heart Foundation campaign for hands-only CPR**
Intensive advertising campaign, with video clip featuring Vinnie Jones and the Bee Gees song, *Stayin’ alive*, aims to convince as many people as possible that they have the ability to save a life if necessary.

**Possibility of legal assisted dying comes closer**
The Commission on Assisted Dying reports that doctors could be given the right to help terminally-ill adults to die, if they have less than a year to live and provided that stringent safeguards are in place.
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5039817.article?referrer=e1