Nursing Report

Much work has gone into the creation of a set of Contraceptive and anti-infective patient group directions by a group of London based sexual and reproductive health nurses. I have represented BASHH on the GUM PGD’s working very closely with the MDT ably chaired by Dr Kathy French. Concurrently a group of nurse managers, educators and university academics have produced a working document on the education and clinical standards needed for sexual and reproductive health nurses. This will fit into the various models of care provided across the breadth of our practice. Once again Dr Kathy French has acted as the fulcrum for this work under the aegis of NHS London – Sexual Health team. They can be accessed at

http://www.londonsexualhealth.org/pgds.html  and


Work continues with our working party that are in the final stages of completing the Sexual Health Skills pathway that starts with the basic STIF programme leading through the portfolio of course culminating in STIF level 2 for Drs and Lead Nurses who manage care or work as Lead Clinicians in sexual & reproductive health clinics. Accreditation of these programmes has been lead by Dr Penny Goold with support from both Jane Bickford and I as your nurse representatives. The accreditation process should be known in early October for both levels – level 6 which is degree and level 7 which is Masters. Full information about the STIF portfolio is available on the BASHH website.

Ongoing work with the NMC and RCN about the issue of nurses who are not midwives but are independent nurse prescribers managing pregnant women within our sexual health and contraception services. The initial guidance from the NMC would have prevented any staff not currently practicing as midwives from managing health issues which are within our sphere of clinical competence and expertise solely on the basis of not being a midwife. I have lobbied on your behalf and met with the RCN to challenge this guidance as unworkable and inappropriate given the caveat of all INP not being able to prescribe outside of our areas of expertise. It was refreshing to be able to enter into open and frank dialogue on behalf of the BASHH membership to explain common sense and just what the expertise levels are within our nursing workforce. The NMC guidance has changed and the RCN have just produced a Q&A guidance document to support your practice. Thanks to the staff that raised this real clinical dilemma for staff. The NMC advice is available at: -


The RCN Q & A advice is not yet available on their website.

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