

## Reports 2005

Ref no 2005/1

Title **Mental Health Recovery: A Way Forward. What can the UK learn from the New Zealand and Australian experience?**

Author Jim Campbell , Sandra Charitable Trust Scholar

Abstract Since the genesis of the recovery 'movement' in New Zealand, over 20 years ago there has been an explosion of recovery philosophies, models and strategies within mental health services. Although the government's policies for mental health services have begun to incorporate mental health recovery within the UK, recovery is still a relatively new idea. Understandably, there is currently much uncertainty upon which model of care or approach would be effective, leaving more questions than answers concerning how to set up recovery oriented services and practices.

The aim of the study tour was to undertake a scoping study of recovery models, approaches and services being implemented that would allow also for the identification of best practices. The study set out to find out the comparative success of the various New Zealand and Australian approaches and how they could be modified for nurses in the UK and elsewhere. The tour was split into 3 areas, education, research and practice, to provide a comprehensive look at mental health recovery.

Ref no 2005/2

Title **"Worlds Apart;" Examining the impact of nursing interventions on the psychological and mental health of refugees and asylum seekers in industrialised countries.**

Author Steve Maddern , Band Trust Scholar

Abstract This work results from a travel scholarship to visit mental health services for asylum seekers and refugees in Canada and the United States of America. The aim was to discover what treatment approaches work and what has been attempted in dealing specifically with the mental health needs of asylum seekers and refugees.

The visits concentrated primarily on the delivery of mental health and psychological services to such people, and compares the service models, treatments available and the modes of delivery of such programmes. The other focus during all of my visits was what other services agencies provided, and how these contributed to the refugees mental and emotional health.

Ref no 2005/3

Title **Exploring the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Role in Sydney and Melbourne**

Author Nancy Loveridge , BUPA Scholar

Abstract The privilege offered to me to visit Sydney and Melbourne in Australia provided superb opportunity to explore and examine the autonomous practice undertaken by Emergency Nurse Practitioners in this continent. The experience offered time out of a busy work schedule to interact and ponder the issues that surround autonomous practice both in Australia and the UK. The UK health care culture within emergency care is dramatically changing due in part to government set targets, such as the new G.P. contracts, and reduced number and hours worked by doctors. The nursing profession has had to develop and adapt in this new climate whilst holding at its core the ability to “nurse” patients in their care. This metamorphosis has occurred in Australia for both similar and differing reasons. The travel scholarship provided a life changing experience, which supported the learning opportunities outlined in the report.

Ref no 2005/4

Title **Living with Chronic HIV-Hepatitis C Co-Infection: Patients’ Illness Narratives**

Author Tom Fernandez, Burdett Trust for Nursing Scholar

Abstract A significant proportion of individuals with HIV infection are also co-infected with Hepatitis C virus (HCV) due to shared routes of transmission. Chronic HIV is associated with increased morbidity and mortality from specific HIV-related illnesses, whilst chronic HCV is a major cause of liver disease. In addition, co-infected individuals face issues associated with negative perceptions about themselves and their illness. Current research concerning co-infection is dominated by a biomedical focus on disease, with little attention paid to the individual’s experience of illness.

The aim of this qualitative study was to explore the experiences of a small sample of co-infected individuals, through their illness narratives, which can offer an alternative perspective by focusing on the experience of illness within its social context, helping the narrator to find meaning in their disrupted lives.

Ref no 2005/5

Title **An Assessment of the Knowledge of Health Professionals Caring for Brain Injured Patients and Their Families in an Acute Hospital Setting Prior to Discharge Home**

Author Jane Knox , MSc Health Studies Scholar

Abstract It has been observed in various studies that knowledge about the effects of brain injury is poor among the general public, however, the knowledge of health professionals who provide care for the brain injured in an acute hospital setting has not been investigated.

This study investigated health professionals' knowledge of the implications of brain injuries and the information given to patients and families before the patient is discharged home from an acute hospital setting.

Ref no 2005/6

Title **Oral Hygiene Interventions and Ventilator Associated Pneumonia in the Critically Ill Patient.**

Author Ms. Emma Louise Eccleston , Band Trust Scholar

Abstract The aim of this assignment is to examine the literature pertaining to oral care in the critically ill patient. In recognising the importance of oral care, nurses may realise the gravity of poor oral care for the patient and understand that high quality oral is essential in improving patient outcomes.

Today, nurses are more likely to utilise evidence in everyday practice; therefore, it is important to explore and understand all aspects of nursing with regard to Evidence Based Clinical Practice.

Therefore, the aim of literature review in this assignment is to identify whether effective oral care using toothbrushes reduces the incidence of VAP, thereby subsequently reducing associated factors.

Ref no 2005/7

Title **The Health Needs of Looked After Children**

Author Amber McCloughlin , Anne Brown Scholar

Abstract Many children and young people, for numerous and varied reasons, are unable to remain in the care of their families. These children are known as “Looked After Children” (L.A.C.) and either voluntarily, or as a result of a legal order are in the care of local health & social service authorities. The D.O.H. (2002) states that these children are amongst the most socially excluded groups in society. They have profoundly increased health needs, which often remain unmet resulting in poor health, educational and social outcomes.

Across the United Kingdom specific health services for this vulnerable group are funded and delivered in a variety of diverse ways. The Florence Nightingale Foundation Travel Scholarship provided the opportunity to visit sites within Scotland, England and Wales to gain direct experience and knowledge of innovations in multidisciplinary practice with a strong nurse-led component. Rich, copious information was gained and recommendations for local implementation were suggested.

Ref no 2005/8

Title **Organisational Culture and Performance: Does organisational culture affect performance in healthcare?**

Author Donna Sorton , MA in Health Services Management Scholar

Abstract Organisations have a culture, which can be individualised to themselves. It can be at a broad, national level, e.g.: the NHS; regional, e.g.: SHA; or local, e.g.: Trusts. At local level, there may be little similarity to the neighbouring Trust of how successful they are regarding performance.

The purpose of this assignment is to critically review the methods of primary and/or secondary research, which has been previously undertaken to address the question “does organisational culture affect performance in healthcare?” Ten papers were critically analysed which were qualitative and quantitative in nature, which researched (both primary and secondary) the area in question – Organisational Culture and Performance. A reviewing of the findings occurred, with conclusions drawn of how future research could be undertaken – i.e. in this case, for a dissertation paper.

Ref no 2005/9

Title **A Study on the Comprehensive Provision of Sex and Relationships, Education in Schools and How This Impacts on the Low Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy in Sweden and Holland.**

Author Amanda Howes , Sandra Charitable Trust Scholar

Abstract The United Kingdom has one of the highest teenage pregnancies in the developed world, second only to the USA and almost five times higher than the Netherlands and Sweden (UNICEF, 2001). Of 950,000 teenage pregnancies that occur each year, more than 3 out of 4 are unintended (Gutmacher 2002).

The Netherlands and Nordic countries are seen as having a comprehensive and more open delivery of sex education providing necessary information from a much more positive sexual health promotion stance.

Sweden and Holland display some of the lowest teenage pregnancy rates in Europe, and have a reputation for being at the forefront of a comprehensive Sex and Relationships Education provision. This report looks at research and current practice in the UK and compares with the findings in Sweden and Holland. It then concludes with ways in which we can improve provision in the UK and enhance practice for public health nurses within Carlisle and District Primary Care Trust.

Ref no 2005/10

Title **Facilitating Thrombolysis as a Treatment for Acute Stroke in a District General Hospital in the UK.**

Author Joanne McCormack , The League of Friends from the Atkinson Morley Hospital Scholar

Abstract Facilitating Thrombolysis as a treatment for acute stroke in District General Hospitals (DGHs) in the UK.

This was a three-week study tour to enable the process of offering this specific treatment for stroke patients to become apparent. Two weeks were spent at Foothills Medical Centre, Calgary, Canada. A day visit was made to several facilities in the UK, namely: St. Georges Hospital, Tooting; The National Hospital, Queens Square; The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust (Bournemouth site) and to Surrey Ambulance Headquarters, Banstead, Surrey. Additionally, Scarborough Hospital was contacted by phone.

Thrombolysis treatment is increasingly being offered nationally (14 sites, May 2004; 24 sites, November 2005). I have seen and noted various service models developed in different types of hospitals (each tailored to local factors) successfully offering the treatment. It has been useful to compare and contrast these service models and leads me to conclude it is possible to safely offer the treatment at the Royal Surrey County Hospital (a DGH) and that it is only a matter of time before the general public present to a hospital with a case where it is clearly appropriate and maybe relatives requesting it! Will we be ready? Will your local hospital be ready?

Ref no 2005/11

Title **Diet advice in obese patients can significantly reduce the instance of type two diabetes.**

Author *TBA*

Abstract This study explores the concept that the prevalence of type two diabetes is intensifying world-wide. It attributes one of the main causes to be the fact that obesity is increasing to epidemic proportions. Within the study the current situation and the rationale for change will be considered.

The first element of the summative assignment discovered that the findings of the review support a change in practice. It discussed if diet advice had a place in the prevention of type two diabetes and suggested ways this could be achieved. The second part of the assignment reflects on the implications of and solutions to the gap in practice. Reflective practice is the ethos of evidence based practice. By reflecting the practitioner is able to recognise gaps in their knowledge and take steps to improve them. Within the reflective cycle it will discuss areas of change management. Finally it will then go on to discuss how quality outcome measures may be maintained.

Ref no 2005/12

Title **To identify the contribution of Community Hospitals and Community Nursing Services to the management of long term conditions.**

Author Pat Greenwood and Mary Stevens, The contribution of community hospitals and community nursing to chronic disease management scholars

Abstract This study was conducted in South Australia and South Africa. The aim of the study was to compare and explore the use of Community Hospitals and Community Nursing Services in a developed country and a country in transition, with those of U.K. in the management of long-term conditions.

Ref no 2005/13

Title **Critical events on general wards: Nurses perceived learning needs.**

Author Pamela Gair McKay, MSc Nursing Scholar

Abstract The purpose of this study is to identify that for nurses to be able to manage critical events on general wards, more training in certain areas is required. The need for this research has become evident through the literature, where it is suggested that nurses dealing with critical incidents on general wards benefit from extra training in this area. The method to be used is a qualitative design, using questionnaires to collect basic demographic information, followed by semi-structured interviews. The research will be conducted in one Highland Hospital, using three general surgical wards, over a four to five month period. Participants would be recruited from the qualified nursing staff working in the three general surgical wards.

Ref no 2005/14

Title **Establishing new approaches to facilitating the learning of communication skills for qualified health care professionals.**

Author Carrie Hamilton, Band Trust Scholar

Abstract Effective communication in healthcare is central to good and ethical practice. For health care professionals at all stages of their professional careers, the ability to develop and maintain competence and confidence in communicating with "real" patients and situations is essential.

Simulated patients are people who act the role of patients, relatives or health and social care professionals. They are an integral part of health care professionals' training and seen as complementing and supporting the acquisition of clinical communication skills.

This study was exploratory in nature, where the organisational infrastructure necessary to support the utilization of simulated patients in communication skills training was looked at. An action plan has now been developed which in turn will lead to a set of guidelines for good practice for simulated patients, not just at Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust but for dissemination to other organisations.

Ref no 2005/15

Title **A study of the provision of primary care interventions, with particular reference to nutrition, by community health support workers in Pakistan.**

Author Sara Smith, Girdlers' Company Scholar

Abstract Skill mix and role redesign have changed the face of the primary care workforce in the UK in recent years. In areas with minority ethnic communities, support workers with language skills and cultural knowledge have been employed to provide health care. Although this role is relatively new to the UK, countries like Pakistan have a long history of employing community support workers. This study seeks to learn from Pakistan's experience and apply the learning to the UK context with particular reference to the field of pre-school nutrition.

The study presents the findings from a short visit of four weeks to Pakistan, in which the role of the support worker was explored. Using semi-structured interviews, the views of health care professionals, support workers and service users were sought. The study was carried out in four centres: two cities and two towns, the latter, serving largely rural populations.

Ref no 2005/16

Title **Determining all-cause and cardiovascular mortality in individuals with diabetes caused by a mutation in the HNF-1a Gene.**

Author Anna Steele, Band Trust Scholar

Abstract Maturity Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY) is a genetic sub type of diabetes accounting for 1-2% of diabetes in the UK or around 20,000 people, and 69% is caused by a mutation in the HNF-1a gene. The condition has an autosomal dominant inheritance pattern with the mutation being highly penetrant. By the age of 40, 90% of affected individuals will have developed diabetes. The age of onset is usually before the age of 25 years and therefore subjects have lifelong exposure to hyperglycemia.

The aim of this study was to assess all-cause and cardiovascular mortality in HNF-1a mutation carriers compared to their unaffected family members.

Ref no 2005/17

Title **Social Policy applied to the care of the Older Person**

Author Sera JONES , Staff Nurse, Caerphilly District Miners Hospital

Abstract This project unveils the changes made to the Heart Attack Project's remit of assessing coronary hear disease. Due to new evidence from the British Hypertension Society (2004) guidelines, there emerged a need to change to assessing cardiovascular risk, which incorporates stroke and peripheral vascular disease. The present situation is examined highlighting areas of change, such as the recommended cholesterol limits for patients. There is a journey through the change process utilising change management theory and its application to practice.

Ref no 2005/18

Title **Improving the early detection of individuals with a First Episode of Psychosis in a rural setting**

Author Mike KELLY , Consultant Nurse , St Ann's Hospital, Poole, Dorset

Abstract The aim of this study, based on a visit to early intervention services in Western Australia operating in rural areas was to:

- i. Work alongside early intervention nurse practitioners to identify effective methods/systems of identifying individuals with a first episode of psychosis earlier
- ii. To raise the profile of providing early intervention to rural communities both at a local and national level in the UK

From this study it is anticipated that robust methods of how to improve early detection of first episode psychosis for professionals work in a rural setting will be highlighted.

Ref no 2005/19

Title **Equine Assisted Therapy**

Author Kim BROWN , Children and Young People's Policy Advisor, Home Office and Youth Justice Board

Abstract The purpose of the travel scholarship was to visit the USA to explore the use of Equine Assisted Therapy with children and young people exhibiting challenging behaviour.

Children who have behavioural disorders such as oppositional defiant disorder often find themselves adversely placed within the criminal justice system. Practitioners who work with these young people often struggle to find an appropriate methodology for engaging and ultimately treatment.

The travel scholarship took in four States across America: Utah, Nevada, Arizona and California. Three main models of equine assisted therapy were explored across a vast range of programmes. The findings of the scholarship suggest that legislation and policy is transferable to the UK system.

Ref no 2005/20

Title **Explore and evaluate conservative management of options for severe chronic function bowel disorders**

Author Jill DEAN , Colorectal Nurse Consultant, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield

Abstract I was awarded The Sandra Charitable Trust Travel Scholarship 2005 for the study of nursing practice to Explore and evaluate conservative management options for severe chronic functional bowel disorders. The scholarship was granted to support a five-week travel sabbatical to meet the objectives outlined in the application proposal.

The chosen study itinerary included travel to two destinations in North America: Chicago and Fort Lauderdale, and to three destinations in Europe: Amsterdam, Holland, and Copenhagen and Aarhus in Denmark.

This report is compiled to provide feedback from the study and to report on the outcomes and implications of the scholarship for nursing practice in the UK.

Ref no 2005/21

Title **An examination of evidenced based practice used in infant mental health services in primary and secondary care setting in Australia**

Author Kathryn McBRIDE , Health Visitor , Newcastle Upon Tyne

Abstract This paper will explore the aims, outcomes and benefits of the tour.  
The aims of the study were:

- i. Examination of best practice in relation to infant mental health services used in primary and secondary care
- ii. Exploration of approaches used in promoting infant mental health within families in the UK and Australia
- iii. Comparison of provision of services ran by primary/secondary care staff in the UK and Australia
- iv. Investigation of the role of the nurse in multi-agency provision of infant mental health services

I will first outline what I mean by Infant Mental Health and briefly discuss the origins of this work before going onto outline the services I visited and discuss them in relation to the aims. I will then go onto discuss the actual outcomes and benefits in relation to the anticipated benefits and outcomes.

Ref no 2005/22

Title **Fit for Practice? A comparison of education in child health in pre-registration nurse courses in the UK and Canada to assess the impact on practice of the separate registration of children's nurses.**

Author Rosemary GAUDOIN , Course Leader BSc (Hons) European Nursing , University of Brighton

Abstract The generosity of the St Mary's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League in support of this Florence Nightingale Foundation Travel Scholarship enabled an analysis of the different approaches to teaching child health in pre-registration nurse education in the UK and Canada and the development of recommendations which draw on the strengths of each approach.

The scourge of childhood which blighted young lives a century ago when the first register of children's nurses was established have mostly been conquered but they have been replaced by new challenges which registered nurses must manage in caring for the health of children and young people.

The visits of this scholarship provided an opportunity not only to contrast and make recommendations for nurse education in the UK but also to develop international links for pre-registration exchanges so that nursing students could benefit from similar opportunities to the one offered to me. Finally, a review of induction programmes for newly appointed registered nurses provided a potential model for the employment of registered nurses from other parts of the NMC register in child health facilities.

Ref no 2005/23

Title **Post-treatment support for survivors of head and neck cancer**

Author Cherith Semple

Abstract The diagnosis and treatment of cancer is known to cause the patient and their family considerable psychological distress, despite ongoing progress in cancer management. Furthermore, patients diagnosed with head and neck cancer have not only the potential of a premature death which is synonymous with cancer, but the reality of visible disfigurement and changes to many basic functions of life such as speech, swallowing and breathing.

An extensive trawl of the literature demonstrated that minimal research had been conducted into this vital area of post-treatment support for patients with head and neck cancer. Therefore, to gain a better understanding of patients needs and to inform the development of post-treatment support a four-week visit was undertaken in the United States of America to visit two centres of clinical excellence, namely the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Centre and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre.

Ref no 2005/24

Title **Dissertation BA (Hons) Supportive and Palliative Care: Specialist Practitioner**

Author Clare Bower

Abstract Agitation is considered as one of the most distressing symptoms in the dying patient and profoundly affects family members (Brajtman 2003). It is a very difficult symptom to manage due to the vast diversity in patients and their significant others. Unlike the management of pain for example, terminal agitation is a symptom that can only truly be assessed after death.

The reason for choosing this emotive subject is to attempt to be involved in formulating an acceptable management plan for the treatment of terminal delirium.

Ref no 2005/25

Title **Reflections on the Impact of a Global Epidemic - examining Hepatitis C in West Yorkshire and Pakistan**

Author Susan Fahey

Abstract Hepatitis C is a growing problem in the UK. It was noticed that a large number of patient's were presenting in Calderdale and Huddersfield who appeared to have been infected in Pakistan. A Study Trip was arranged to visit Pakistan and investigate Hepatitis C there. A huge epidemic was discovered which is affecting the population and the Heath Care of Pakistan. A number of Heath Promotion activities have been undertaken in Calderdale and Huddersfield and the UK to raise awareness about Hepatitis C amongst the Pakistani population.

Ref no 2005/26

Title **An examination of the law and policy relating to Anti-social Behaviour Orders made on child and young people. Does every child matter?**

Author Ann Fenton-Jones

Abstract New Labour's flagship legislation the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO), to combat low level but persistent crime and disorder in areas of high deprivation. It has rapidly developed into a highly visible tool to tackle both troublesome and criminal behaviour of children and young people.

The study analyses if the ABSO is a fair, effective or appropriate approach to solving the disorderly behaviour of children and young people and whether all children irrespective of their behaviour are given equal access to support, protection, and maximising their potential.

Ref no 2005/27

Title **Improving the sexual and reproductive health of minority ethnic populations through community and primary care initiatives**

Author Dr. Laura Serrant-Green

Abstract Reports on the health of the public in Britain have shown that sexual ill health is unequally distributed across society. People from socially disadvantaged and marginalized groups experience the highest levels of sexually related illness. Minority ethnic populations have been shown to suffer disproportionately from sexual ill health. Strategies which have succeeded in reducing the rates of unintended pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections in majority populations have had less success in minority ethnic communities. Community based initiatives are seen as a possible way forward in improving the health chances of minority ethnic people in UK society.

This report outlines a two-centre study to observe successful community and primary based health care organisations in Canada and Scotland to provide services to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of their minority ethnic communities.

Ref no 2005/28

Title **A Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme and Follow-on Care**

Author Janet Sinnerton

Abstract This is a qualitative, exploratory, descriptive study to investigate a pulmonary rehabilitation programme and the follow-on care provided by a local Health Care Trust. The primary aim of the study is to investigate the participants' perception of the service provided. In addition, the concept of follow-on care is explored with key stakeholders involved in service planning and provision.

Focus groups were used to explore the participants' perceptions of the service. A total of four focus groups, which included 25 participants, achieved data saturation. Following the focus group discussions, three key stakeholders were interviewed using semi-structure interviews. Questions for the semi-structured interviews were formulated by the main categories and sub categories emerging from focus group data. Purposive sampling methods were used to select participants for the focus groups and the semi-structured interviews.

Ref no 2005/29

Title **Nurses and Computers: An international perspective on how nurses are, and how they would like to be, using ICT in the workplace, and the support they consider that they need.**

Author Dr Carol S Bond

Abstract The use of IT in nursing (nursing informatics) is increasing, and has the potential to improve patient care. Research, and the experience of the author, has shown however that nurses lack basic IT skills and informatics knowledge. This study sought to explore what nurses' want from IT in the workplace, and how pre-registration education can help to prepare nurses for working in this changing environment.

Nursing schools in New Zealand tend to have a lecturer leading nursing informatics. Nursing informatics is included in pre-registration education programmes, and several innovative developments supporting this were observed.

Ref no 2005/30

Title **Ramona House – A Suitable Alternative to Hospital Detoxification: A Phenomenological Study of Clients Perspectives**

Author Anne Marie Hughes

Abstract Historically alcohol detoxification has taken place in hospital settings, either general hospital, psychiatric admission wards or specialised detoxification/treatment centres.

In the current climate of joint working between statutory and non-statutory services, a window of opportunity has opened in the treatment of addiction. In Sperrin Lakeland Trust a joint project has commenced with First Housing, Supporting People and the Trust to offer a service for chronic drinkers in the community. The project, named Ramona House, consists of four beds for detoxification/crises and four beds for long/medium stay.

These clients had also been detoxed in hospital previously and the write wanted to elicit from clients how these experiences differed them in each place.

Ref no 2005/31

Title **The Funding of Assisted Reproductive Technology and its Impact on Fertility Nursing Roles and Patients' Experiences**

Author Dr Helen Allan

Abstract The aim of my travel scholarship was to improve fertility patient care in the UK through identifying good nursing practice in different cultural settings in Australia and New Zealand. The objectives of the study trip were to observe fertility nurses working with patients, doctors, and embryologists and to interview a selection of nurses, doctors, and other working staff working in these clinics. Visits were made to eight fertility clinics in Australia and to one fertility clinic in New Zealand. Discussions arranged by the Fertility Nursing Associations of Australia and New Zealand took place with fertility nurses. Interviews were undertaken with nurses, doctors, scientists, and patients and observations were made of clinical nursing practice.

Ref no 2005/32

Title **Who should facilitate clinical skills?**

Author Katherine MacKenzie

Abstract Nurse education has traditionally relied on clinical placements to provide the students with the "hands on" skills experience that is not possible to teach in a classroom setting. However with changes to the NHS this is becoming increasingly difficult with fewer resources available and issues of patient safety to consider.

My scholarship allowed me to visit two centres in Australia where simulated clinical skills have been an element of curriculum since 1994. These universities have extensive experience in using clinical skills and have developed valuable means of facilitation, using sessional clinicians to deliver skills sessions.

Ref no 2005/33

Title **The Relationship between Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes and Pulmonary Function**

Author Lawrie MacDougall

Abstract As technological advances have been made and more becomes known about cystic fibrosis the quality of life of patients suffering from this debilitating disease is improving. However, with this increased technology and more advanced care, new problems are surfacing with increased vigour due to the increased longevity exhibited in patients. One of these complications manifesting itself with increased frequency is diabetes mellitus.

In this literature review, the intricate relationships that co exists between cystic fibrosis and factors that influence and impact on the development of cystic fibrosis related diabetes – pulmonary function, gender, microbiology, body mass index for example are explored.

Ref no 2005/34

Title **Can the Clinical Research Nurse take informed consent to clinical trials within oncology?**

Author Joanne Bird

Abstract Nurses throughout all specialties are taking on more extended roles. For oncology research nurses, a logical progression is to become the initial signatory when taking consent to clinical trials, a practice currently undertaken by medical staff involved in the trial. Oncology Research Nurses currently participate in the informed consent process and act as a main contact for the patients participating in clinical trials, but do not sign the consent form with the patient. The informed consent process is closely regulated to ensure patient safety, but enabling nurses to extend their role in this way may enable a more flexible service for patients.

In order to explore the evidence base for this, a systematic literature review was performed. The criteria used revealed two papers that discuss the role of the Research Nurse within this context and current regulation was also considered.

Ref no 2005/35

Title **Acquired brain injury (ABI) rehabilitation: a nursing perspective**

Author Glenda Shereni

Abstract Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) can be a debilitating condition that affects both patient and family members. The recovery and rehabilitation process can be challenging in many ways for the patient, family, and professionals alike.

My knowledge and experience with the UK health system and provision of ABI services provided me with a perfect background for my study. I was keen to explore ABI rehabilitation practices (with a focus on the role of the nurse in the inter-disciplinary team) in other countries. I chose Canada and the USA as they have on average 20 years experience in ABI rehabilitation, with documented evidence of research-based practice. My study of the Canadian ABI rehabilitation services would also look into the models of practice utilised in post-acute rehabilitation. My hope in completing this study was to look at what lessons could be learnt by the UK. Information was collated through interviews with nursing staff, members of the inter-disciplinary team and observation of clinical practice.