

## Reports 2006

Ref no 2006/1

Title **TO EXPLORE THE REASONS WHY WOMEN REPEATEDLY ATTEND FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION**

Author Jennifer DAVIES

Abstract The aim of Emergency Contraception is to prevent unwanted pregnancy following sexual intercourse, reducing state financial expenditure on terminations and psychological pain for those women affected. This literature review dissertation was concerned with critically exploring and analysing the reasons why women repeatedly attend for Emergency Contraception

Ref no 2006/2

Title **ATTITUDES TO ALCOHOL AND SMOKING IN YOUNG POLISH MEN**

Author Allison R TAIT

The aim of the study tour was to undertake qualitative research study into the attitudes to alcohol and smoking in young Polish men.  
The tour was split into 4 areas:

Abstract

1. Primary care services
2. Education
3. Practice
4. Research by administration of a questionnaire

Ref no 2006/3

Title **TO STUDY THE HEALTH BELIEFS, RELIGIONS AND CULTURAL BELIEFS HELD BY MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN PAKISTAN IN RELATION TO DIABETES**

Author Kirpal MARWA

Abstract Three centres in Karachi Pakistan were visited to observe what advice and support is given to people with diabetes in relation to Ramadan and diabetes. The scholar engaged with diabetes educators and dieticians with regards to dietary advice and medication. She got an insight into the health, cultural and religious beliefs held by the Muslim community in Pakistan and investigated how the information gain can be used for the Muslim diabetic Community in Coventry.

Ref no 2006/4

Title **RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR MSc ACADEMIC MODULE. WHAT ARE THE EXPERIENCES OF FAMILIES WHEN CHILDREN WITH AN ACUTE ILLNESS RECEIVE INTRAVENOUS THERAPY AT HOME?**

Author Teresa JOHNSON

There are established benefits to caring for children with a long-term illness at home. Impacts on families have been examined mainly from a parent's, rather than children's perspective. The technological development of peripherally inserted central catheters mean that children with a short-term, acute illness requiring intravenous therapy are also being cared for at home, primarily by parents. There are reported concerns with community resources.

Abstract

Aims-

The research question asks what are the experiences of families when children with an acute illness receive intravenous therapy at home? Four primary aims are; experiences of parents performing procedures on their child, teaching and preparation for parents, community resources and support required, parents and children's experiences of technological care at home.

Ref no 2006/5

Title **CONTINENCE CARE AND THE MANAGEMENT OF URINARY CATHETER-ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS**

Author Kathryn GETLIFFE

This travel scholarship to Canada, USA, and Australia was driven by strong belief that continence care in community settings and catheter care, in particular could be improved. The initial focus was on the prevalence and impact of catheter-associated infection, partially in response to the NICE (2003) 'Guidelines on prevention of health care associated infections in primary and community care'.

Abstract The guidelines identified a need for epidemiological studies of prevalence and incidence of bacteriuria/clinical urinary tract infection during long-term catheterisation in different populations and different care settings. The study visits were planned to complement similar work in this area being undertaken in the UK, to examine sources and quality of current knowledge/ evidence on the incidence and impact of catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) in primary and community care settings. A second aim of the visits was to examine the roles and responsibilities accepted by community nurses in continence care, and catheter care in particular.

Ref no 2006/6

Title **AN EVALUATIVE TRAVEL STUDY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
PORTSMOUTH-ENGLAND, PERTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF GENERIC WORKERS WITHIN A THERAPEUTIC SETTING**

Author Patricia KIRK

Abstract This study was carried out in Portsmouth, England; and Perth in Western Australia. It sought to look at the further development of the Short Term Augmented Support Services (STARS). The visit to Portsmouth took in a 'rapid response team' and 'nurse led to rehabilitation unit'. The program of visits in Perth provided the opportunity to take a look at how services are provided across the wider system of acute and post acute health and social care, focusing on the needs of older people and adults with a disability.

Ref no 2006/7

Title **A STUDY OF THE ACCEPTABILITY AND APPLICABILITY OF CUE EXPOSURE  
THERAPY (CET) AS AN INTERVENTION USED BY MENTAL HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND  
MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS (DUAL DIAGNOSIS).**

Author David Steven MANLEY

Abstract Cue Exposure Therapy (CET) has been described by a number of authors (Ehrman et al. 1991, Rohsenow et al. 2001 and Rohsenow and Monti 1999). Cue Exposure Therapy is used to aid individuals with substance misuse problem users to recognise cues and triggers to drug and alcohol use. Department of Health guidelines (2002) suggest that substance misuse skills should be adapted by mental health professionals in their work with clients with co-morbid mental health and substance misuse problems (dual diagnosis).

The aim of the study is to evaluate psychiatric personnel's perception of the acceptability and applicability of CET and to examine how the skills are adapted to meet the needs of this client group.

Ref no 2006/8

Title **THE EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF A PATIENT'S DETERIORATING CONDITION ON GENERAL WARDS TO PREVENT A REQUIREMENT FOR RESUSCITATION: NURSES PERCEIVED LEARNING NEEDS**

Author Pamela Gair McKAY

Abstract This study identified that more training is required for general nurses to recognize early and manage patients with deteriorating condition on the ward to prevent a requirement for resuscitation. Although the Government have made recommendations for developments in this area of practice, there is evidence to suggest that there are obstacles preventing this from happening. Few studies have looked at what general ward nurses perceive as their learning needs to improve patient care in this area. Using a non-validated questionnaire to collect basic demographic data, fifteen nurses from two general wards in one hospital participated in semi-structured interviews. This study used a qualitative design using Thematic Analysis of the data generated from interviews.

Ref no 2006/9

Title **ADDICTION SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

Author Gary EVANS

This study sought to give the author a perspective into the approaches to drug and alcohol dependency in both Australia and New Zealand both clinically and educationally.

Abstract The aims of the study were

1. To examine specific innovative practices in relation to substance misuse in Australia and New Zealand
2. To evaluate the potential of adapting these practices to address meet local need

Ref no 2006/10

Title **AN EXPLORATION OF CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE CHEST PAIN**

Author Sandra GRAHAM

Abstract This report provides an overview of my Florence Nightingale Foundation Travel Scholarship. It includes a description of the places visited and their treatment and care of patients with coronary heart disease. It also includes a description of my own place of work, an analysis of the three visits, lessons learnt and a list of recommendations.

Ref no 2006/11

Title **AN INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF ACUTE SPINAL CORD INJURY CARE**

Author Karen E WHITEHURST

Acute spinal cord injury is best delivered from within the confines of a spinal injuries centre. Yet what of those who are not able to gain immediate access to this sanctuary of specialist interventions?

Abstract Despite the progress made in treating the devastating injury of the spinal cord, navigating the way through the acute period following the initial injury can be a problematic time, especially if the individual requires intensive care support outside of a spinal injuries centre.

Acute spinal cord injury care interventions at spinal injury centres and intensive care units in America and Switzerland were reviewed in order to compare their practices to those of similar units in the UK and to examine if the similar problems existed overseas. An evaluation also took place of the nature and extent of presenting complications which patients presented with at the spinal centres and if this is affected access to a specialist spinal facility.

Ref no 2006/12

Title **A WINDOW ON REPEAT TERMINATION: STAFF PERCEPTIONS**

Author Teresa REGIS

Abstract This study explores the phenomenon of repeat termination of pregnancy through the perceptions of a whole population of staff working within a termination service. This is a qualitative study the methodology of which is based upon the philosophical beliefs of phenomenology. The aims were to: explore staff feelings of repeat termination of pregnancy for 'social reasons'; explore the circumstances surrounding women's situations that lead women to request repeated terminations; and to explore staff experiences when caring for women who access the termination service. Digitally recorded in-depth face-to-face interviews were undertaken with 17 health care professionals. The recordings were then transcribed and analysed using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis.

Ref no 2006/13

Title **MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH HYPERGLYCAEMIA IN THE ACUTE HOSPITAL SETTING**

Author Simone PENFOLD

Abstract Hyperglycaemia (high blood glucose) in hospital is prevalent in diabetic and non-diabetic patients despite recent guidelines for practice. Hyperglycaemia on admission to hospital (incidental hyperglycaemia) is an indicator of poor outcome for the patient. Unfortunately hyperglycaemia is often under-treated on admission to hospital and throughout their stay in the acute setting. There are many reasons for this. There is research available to show that id blood glucose levels are controlled in patients in the intensive care setting their mortality and morbidity rates are greatly reduced. In other sub-groups such as patients who have had a myocardial infarction or stroke, there is also evidence to show that their outcome and length of stay is improved if they have their hyperglycaemia controlled. Evidence is now required to show if this reduction in mortality and in length of stay in the acute hospital setting can be transferred into the ward environment in patients who are not as acutely unwell. The aim of this work is to reduce hyperglycaemia in the broader areas of the general medical wards and in the subgroup of patients who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It is hoped that by carrying out two randomised controlled trials a treatment can be established for hyperglycaemia in hospital that can be adhered to for all patients and a standard of care can be set for future patients and medical nursing staff.

Ref no 2006/14

Title **MOTIVATION TO CARE”: DOMAINS OF IMPORTANCE IN SELECTING PRE-REGISTRATION NURSING STUDENTS- FINDING A MEASURABLE DEFINITION OF WHAT IT IS TO BE MOTIVATED, EXCELLENCT & COMPETENT**

Author Jane BESTON

Abstract This study draws on the original proposal submitted to The Florence Nightingale Foundation in 2005 and reflects learning and experiences shared with experts overseas. The study contains personal narrative, draws on an extensive literature review undertaken with colleagues overseas, highlights learning to date, and outlines a proposal for ongoing work and research. The proposals within this paper grow out of the hypothesis that specific intra-personal domains are required for individuals to be competent, caring, resilient and motivated mental health nurses (RMNs). It is my belief that these intra-personal domains positively influence the quality of patient relationships and, although widely recognized as essential qualities for mental health nurses, these domains have not been sufficiently investigated or reliably measured in the context of pre-registration student nurse selection.

Ref no 2006/15

Title **“WILL THE INTRODUCTION OF CASE MANAGEMENT, PATIENT SELF-CARE MODELS AND THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY MATRON IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF INDIVIDUALS WITH CHRONIC AND COMPLEX CONDITIONS IN SCOTLAND?”**

Author Christine HOY

Abstract Many developed countries are planning for the predicted huge rise in numbers of older people living with long-term conditions. NHS Scotland has suggested case management should be explored as a means to protect health and coordinate care and that Scots need to take greater responsibility for their health.  
The award enabled the author to visit sites in England, United States and Canada with long experience in case management and patient self-care to compare approaches and learn how Scotland could implement successful strategies. The report makes several recommendations, which adds to the body of evidence supporting development of proactive care.

Ref no 2006/16

Title **AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EARLY OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND ADOLESCENT ONSET OF ANOREXIA NERVOSA**

Author Juliet BARTLETT

Abstract This was a qualitative exploratory study which sought to investigate the possible relationship between early childhood obsessive compulsive behaviour and the later development of anorexia. The purpose was also to identify variables that may influence this relationship and how they impacted on the obsessive compulsive behaviour becoming focused on weight and shape during adolescence.

Ref no 2006/17

Title **IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE**

Author Rosie DARGAN

Abstract The aims of the study were to identify centres of excellence for Huntington's Disease, to develop a working relationship with relevant influencers in these centres, to understand the methods used and their effect (evidence based practice) and to develop a cost effective proposal for such centres for recommended development in N.I. This report describes the information gathered and summaries of discussions during visits to four units caring for people with HD in the UK.

Ref no 2006/18

Title **A STUDY OF THE MANAGEMENT OF DUAL DIAGNOSIS IN NEW ZEALAND**

Author David KEATING

Abstract The term dual diagnosis is in common use in psychiatric practice describing the combination of severe mental illness and substance misuse. The nature of the relationship is complex.

Abstract Cannabis use and its effect on mental health is in the subject of increasing debate in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. The author worked in New Zealand in 1988 and returned to examine how services are managed and how clinicians address the issue. The NZ Government has made a sustained effort to provide a culture and environment through strategic planning to improve practice. This includes consumer rights, legislation, research, workforce development, outcome measurement, risk assessment and investment in Information Technology.

Ref no 2006/19

Title **ADDRESSING ATTITUDES TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

Author Comfort MOMOH

Abstract In 2001. Comfort Momoh journeyed to Somaliland to explore attitudes to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), otherwise known as Female Circumcision (FC). In 2007 Comfort returned to Africa, more specifically parts of Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone with the initial intention of trying to comprehend what it is that continues to induce mothers, grandmothers and other female relatives to inflict this harmful practice on these girls. Comfort also wanted to see for herself what was being done at grass roots level to facilitate attitudinal change so that she might be able to pass findings on to individuals, NGOs and health and social care professionals in Britain.

Information was collected using a small-scale questionnaire and the keeping of a daily diary. Paperwork was kept to a minimum to facilitate active listening, which was followed by daily reflection on events and observations. It is only by building a sound knowledge base and greater awareness of what gives impetus to maintaining FGM in parts of Africa that professionals, non-government organisations (NGO), charities and campaigners might in timbering about eradication.

Ref no 2006/20

Title **EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN EXPRESSING BREAST MILK FOR THEIR SICK PRETERM BABIES**

Author Sandra ROBINSON

Abstract The purpose of the study was to explore the experiences of mothers expressing breast milk for their sick preterm babies whilst in hospital.

The subject was seven mothers of babies born at less than 30 weeks gestation who planned to rest feed. A qualitative phenomenological approach was taken to gain an in depth understanding of the mothers' experiences. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven women in the first week following their baby's birth and again at the week of their baby's discharge or sooner if the mother had stopped expressing breast milk. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and using Colaizzi procedure.

Ref no 2006/21

Title **A CONTEXTUALISATION AND COMPARISON OF ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE FROM THE USA TO THE UK**

Author Anthony J Moffatt and Deseriee DEMINGO

Abstract The term Advanced Nursing Practice (ANP) is a new healthcare phenomenon within the United Kingdom (UK) today. It remains a term which authors and regulatory organisations find hard to define, implement and regulate, as it is not well documented. Recent government strategies within the UK reinforce the need for nurses to extend their scope of practice and perform tasks that were previously the domain of physicians.

This travel scholarship reinforced the need for practicing ANPs within the UK and further offered solutions to overcome role implementation and regulations errors that the US have clearly experienced and refined, by their additional analysis of Work Based Learning (WBL). Masters level education and collaborative interdisciplinary relationships.

Ref no 2006/22

Title **YOUR PLACE OR MINE?**

Author David HARLING

Each State across America provides differing forms of provision for people with a learning disability (or developmental disability as it is know there).

Abstract In the late 1960s in California State legislation known as the Lanterman Act was passed. For almost forty years this piece of statute has placed '*entitlement*' at the heart of its cause to ensure people with developmental disabilities receive the right services tailored to meet their needs. The Lanterman Act continues to be reviewed annually to help guide and provide a variety of hospital and community based provision.

The aims of the study was to both scope and examine the differing types of health led services being provided across California and compare the role of the specialist nurse working in these setting with that of the learning disability nurse in the UK. The visits focused upon the delivery of developmental disability services by comparing the various types of specialist services, the differing interventions being used and the evidence base which underpinned these service models.

Ref no 2006/23

Title **THE CULTURE AND CONTEXT OF NURSING CARE IN STROKE UNITS**

Author Christopher R BURTON

Abstract It has been advocated that skilled nursing care explains some of the benefits to patients seen in systematic reviews of stroke units. Unfortunately observational studies of stroke nursing have been disappointing, with little application of the rehabilitative component of the role being evident. The lack of either a strong empirical or theoretical basis to our understanding of the nursing role hampers research in this area, weakening attempts to develop the role in either policy or practice. This study contributes to the growing literature on the nursing role in stroke care, not by studying 'nursing interventions' which shift between professions and within nursing over time, but rather by focusing on the organisational culture and context that supports the delivery of effective and appropriate stroke nursing. This study provided the opportunity to visit two stroke services in Canada and one in Norway.

Ref no 2006/24

Title **THE INFORMATIONAL NEEDS OF ADOLESCENTS WITH CANCER**

Author Megan WILLISHER

Abstract The incidence of cancer in the adolescent age group has increased significantly over the last thirty years. However, despite this increase little research has been focused on the specific needs of adolescents with cancer, and in particular their informational requirements. Research has demonstrated that there are major advantages in providing high quality information to patients with cancer, aiding decision making and improving psychological and physical well being. Providing such information at this time is crucial for adolescents with cancer as it allows them to maintain some control and normality during this difficult period. Consequently, the provision and supply of appropriate information is a vital component of professional care. Cancer nurses have a pivotal role to play in providing effective information since they are likely to be the healthcare professional most involved in the care of the adolescent patient. However, disparities are evident as health professionals' perceptions of the informational needs of adolescents with cancer differ from those identified by adolescents themselves. Consequently, there is a need to develop health care professionals' knowledge and skills in this area to allow nursing practice to improve and meet the specific needs of adolescents with cancer.

Ref no 2006/25

Title **THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT IN INTENSIVE CARE: WILL THE USE OF INTENSIVE INSULIN THERAPY RESULT IN A REDUCTION IN MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY, COMPARED TO THOSE ADULTS RECEIVING THE TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT OF PREVENTIVE HYPERGLYCAEMIA**

Author Susie CAMBRAY

Abstract Hyperglycaemia is common in critically ill patients, even those without diabetes mellitus. Until recently, treatment of hyperglycaemia during critical illness was only considered necessary when blood glucose levels became excessively elevated, a strategy primarily based on anecdotal evidence. However, evidence is increasing that intensive insulin therapy reduces mortality and morbidity and research has been undertaken to validate this theory. Research has shown that maintaining a blood glucose level between 4.4 and 6.1 mmol/l improves patient outcome.

Ref no 2006/26

Title **MODELS OF MENTORSHIP OF NURSE PRESCRIBERS IN THE USA AND CANADA**

Author Collette ROBERTSON

Abstract Government policy directives have ensured a rapid increase in the number of nurse prescribers, but there is evidence from a number of studies that suggest prescribing by nurses is under utilised following completion of prescribing courses. These studies conclude this may in part be related to a lack of peer supervision and support. The aim of this study was to explore the experiences of nurses in areas where nurse prescribing education and subsequent role development has long been in existence and establish implications for local practice development.

Ref no 2006/27

Title **AN OBSERVATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL CARE PRACTICES**

Author Caryl SKENE and Caroline NICHOLSON

Abstract Preterm babies can experience a range of problems related to immaturity and to the unfavourable setting of the neonatal intensive care unit. In an attempt to address this, a developmental care approach advocates a broad range of interventions designed to minimise the negative impact of such an environment. This includes controlling external stimuli such as round light and activity, encouraging family involvement and considering appropriate comforting measures. It also advocates an individual approach to care which is dictated by cues from the baby.

The aim of this study was to observe developmental care practices in a number of neonatal units in Europe and America and to use our findings to inform a developmental care strategy for our own unit. This report provides details of our visits to five neonatal units, described some of the excellent practice that we observed and concludes with recommendations for future practice.

Ref no 2006/28

Title **PRENATAL SCREENING: THE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN AND MIDWIVES IN VANCOUVER**

Author Jenny McNEILL

Abstract The aim of this project was to explore the experience of women and midwives in Vancouver in relation to antenatal screening tests with particular focus on screening for Down's Syndrome. This study is part of a larger programme of work on antenatal screening and builds on a funded study recently conducted in Northern Ireland. Pregnant women were interviewed in the antenatal period using survey methodology and in-depth interviews were conducted with midwives. The provision of screening tests is under debate currently and it is a time of change and development. It was therefore pertinent to explore the experiences of women and midwives from an alternative cultural setting where issues specific to Northern Ireland bear no relevance and where a universal offer of Down's Syndrome screening has been widely implemented. The aim is to use the information gleaned to shape future health care services and the direction of clinical midwifery practice regarding the offer of Down's syndrome screening tests.

Ref no 2006/29

Title **AN EXAMINATION OF METHODS OF MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR IN ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY: A LITERATURE REVIEW**

Author Polly GOULDER

Abstract The management of challenging behaviours in learning disability is a topic for heated debate and has generated a plethora of studies and research papers. This review examines the literature that focuses on the management of challenging behaviour, comparing and contrasting such diverse methods of intervention as physical restraint, the use of anti-psychotic medication, gentle teaching and aromatherapy, and assesses the success of these methods in an attempt to find out "what actually works". Methods of intervention were examined against pre-determined success criteria, which required there to be a reduction in episodes of challenging behaviour. Where incidents of challenging behaviour remained static, a method could still be deemed to be successful if there was proved to be an improvement in quality of life.

Ref no 2006/30

Title **THE EMPOWERMENT OF STUDENT NURSES IN THE UK, FINLAND, THE USA AND CANADA: A CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY**

Author Caroline BRADBURY-JONES

Abstract The study explored the empowerment of student nurses from four different countries, and sought to gain understanding of the different models of support that students receive in clinical practice. The intention was to enhance the insight that I had already gained into student nurse empowerment from a UK viewpoint (Bradbury-Jones *et al* published in the Journal of Advanced Nursing 2007), with the addition of an international perspective. The results of the UK study suggest that the support of student nurses in clinical practice is a significant antecedent of empowerment. Disempowerment on the other hand arises when student nurses are not well supported and when the mentors who should be closely supervising them are either intentionally or inadvertently absent. The travel scholarship was therefore an opportunity to learn from other countries regarding models of support for student nurses in clinical practice.

Ref no 2006/31

Title **ACCESSING CONTRACEPTION SERVICES: THE EXPERIENCE AND THOUGHTS OF TEENAGE MOTHERS**

Author Angela STAR

Abstract This study sets out to explore the experiences and thoughts of teenage mothers on post natal contraception services. Prevention of subsequent pregnancies has become a focus for the current government's Teenage Pregnancy Unit as it accelerates the strategy towards 2101 (2006), and services are being asked to prioritise this, with the aim of meeting the target set within the NHS Plan (2000) of halving the number of teenage pregnancies.

A questionnaire was used to gather the information from 17 young mothers, with the date collected inputted into a software package. Using these results, and my own professional knowledge and experience I have been able to identify some key points that young mothers would like from a service.

Ref no 2006/32

Title **COMPREHENSIVE CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY NURSING – EXPLORING MODELS OF PROVISION WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND AND ENGLAND**

Author Angela WALSH

Abstract Using the tool of Logo Visual Thinking, the experience of a study of children's community Nursing Services in Northern Ireland and selected sites in England is used to create a model to help in understanding what is needed to deliver comprehensive children's community nursing. The themes identified by the model are explored and the applications to practice highlighted.

Ref no 2006/33

Title **FAMILIES FIRST! AN EXPLORATION OF THE FAMILIES' EXPERIENCES OF THE SUPPORT AND INTERVENTION RECEIVED FROM MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE UK AND AUSTRALIA**

Author Lynne ROBERTS

Findings from a recent study undertaken in North Glamorgan NHS Trust (Roberts 2007, unpublished) identified that families' had evaluated their experiences of family work as a 'positive and beneficial' experience that not only promoted the recovery of the service user but led to a more effective family lifestyle for reasons that included:-

- Abstract
1. Families having a better understanding of the illness
  2. Families feeling more involved and able to assist in the recovery of the service user
  3. Families feeling supported and more able to address their own needs that led to a more qualitative family life

Mental Health Services in Melbourne, Australia, have developed a variety of approaches to family support and intervention which has included training material for staff to promote engagement with families. This travel scholarship allowed the author to explore a variety of family intervention and support systems in Melbourne in order to compare to services offered locally.

Ref no 2006/34

Title **THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA PRESCRIBED ATYPICAL NEUROLEPTIC MEDICATION**

Author Tony GILL

Patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia are often prescribed either typical or atypical antipsychotic medication.

Abstract

The older (typical) neuroleptics, however, have been shown to produce unpleasant side-effects that cause severe problems with everyday life functioning and thus affect their quality of life, and how patients actually live their lives. Existing evidence relies strongly on rating scales to assess a patient's quality of life, either from the patient's or from a clinician's viewpoint. But there is no available evidence that has produced highly valid accounts of how patients themselves construct their lives to be meaningful, and in particular, how medication affects their lives.

This study will utilise a number of sophisticated data collection techniques, including interviews, focus groups and diaries to establish how patients' lives differ depending upon the medication prescribed.

Ref no 2006/35

Title **A PHENOMENOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF A CHILDREN'S FICTIONAL BOOK ON THE SUBJECT OF DEATH AND DYING**

Author Helen DUDLEY

Abstract The principle aim of the study was to uncover and produce a phenomenological description of the experiences involved when reading Michael Rosen's SAD book (Rosen 2004). The main data collection session took place on 17 December 2005.

Although fictional literature is a common tool utilised in therapeutic work, there is very little research to both inform and support evidence based practice. This study will be of benefit to a wide range of multi-professional staff who work within child bereavement services

Ref no 2006/36

Title **MY MIND, MY LIFE**

Author Mary HAGON

The purpose of this research was to look at younger people with a high or complex care needs who are placed in nursing homes or care units.

Abstract Personal computers have become an integrated part of our lives both for educational and working environments, as a society we have been transformed by the computer.

More specifically, could the use of computers uses a recreational therapy help restore cognitive functioning, alleviate boredom and minimise challenging behaviour

Ref no 2006/37

Title **TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF DIABETIC FOOT ULCERATION IN AUSTRALIA AND AMERICA**

Author Kathleen ECCLES

This study provided an excellent opportunity to investigate the offloading techniques used to treat diabetic foot ulceration but this soon expanded into the preventative care being offered in both countries and the difficulties patients' experience. This included social and cultural disadvantages and inequities in each health care system.

Abstract In Australia the Aboriginal population – which consists of 2.1% of the Australian population – are at up to four times the risk of diabetes when compared to the general population. In Arizona where there are around 300,000 Native Americans, of which almost a third have diabetes.

Both countries have developed strategies to educate rural staff to recognise 'at risk' feet in order to reduce the number of major amputations in the indigenous population by implementing early treatment and teaching patients to examine their feet daily.

Ref no 2006/38

Title **THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING POINTS OF TRANSITION IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

Author Christine BROWN WILSON

Australia has a well established policy of ageing in place with care providers providing a range of accommodation and care options. There is growing emphasis within the UK of providing similar opportunities for older people through the development of retirement villages and extra care housing. This suggests that older people and their families will be involved in a range of transitions within care provision. There is a growing body of qualitative and quantitative research emerging from Australia that has explored these issues and has the potential to inform current developments with the UK. The objectives of my study tour to Australia were to explore the transferability of research findings to the UK and consider mechanisms in place that enable research in Australia to influence both policy and practice. This was achieved by visiting universities and aged care providers with a track record of user involvement in research.

Abstract

Ref no 2006/39

Title **PARTNERSHIP WORKING: THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THE DELIVERY OF EFFECTIVE MENTORSHIP PREPARATION PROGRAMMES**

Author Marie DAVIES-LYONS

Abstract In 1998 a report entitled "Fitness to Practice" was published. The report's requirements placed a greater responsibility on clinical mentors to facilitate learning, teaching and assessment of student competence in clinical practice. Wales took a unique approach to the report's implementation. The five HEIS and their partner NHS Trusts worked together to develop nine key elements. The All Wales mentorship preparation programme was one of these key elements. Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust initiated the All Wales Mentorship Preparation Programme in the Spring of 2002. A review of the programme in 2006 highlighted a number of areas of concern. These concerns centred primarily around non-completion of the mentorship programme. The results of the evaluation suggested a need to revisit the existing mentorship preparation programme. This need was further driven by the Nursing and Midwifery Council's publication of a consultative document which proposed potential tightening of the standards of mentorship. A scoping exercise of mentorship preparation programmes across the UK was undertaken to assist in the identification of a more pragmatic and workable programme in Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust four sites were chosen and subsequently visited.

Ref no 2006/40

Title **FAMILY LEARNING IN CHRONIC CHILDHOOD ILLNESS: A COMPARISON OF ATTITUDES**

Author Veronica SWALLOW

Abstract Clinical and research experience have shown that families with chronic childhood illness often have to learn to share complex disease management with professionals, and much of the care delivered at home or in school. This scholarship enabled the author to visit centres of clinical excellence in chronic childhood disease management in the USA and Canada and compare the care with that delivered in UK centres of excellence. This report highlights some of the main similarities and differences in shared management of chronic childhood disease between the UK, USA and Canada.

Ref no 2006/41

Title **RESEARCH LITERATURE REVIEW – MENTORSHIP – PREPARATION FOR PRACTICE**

Author Julie SHAKESBY

Tissue donation is a subject misunderstood by many people explained perhaps by a stronger accent focused on organ donation where it has remained in the spotlight. It has been found that the possibility of tissue donation may aid families to draw comfort from and help precipitate part of the grieving process. The government has undertaken measures to increase the donor register by issuing realistic targets with the hope of achieving a positive outcome involving a variety of organisations.

Abstract The nature of this study is to focus on unobtrusive documentation sourced from the Internet on the subject of tissue donation appropriate for relatives to comprehend. It takes the form of an evaluative study involving unobtrusive data internet therefore a sample frame is not featured. It will utilise a quantitative approach to analyse the quality and diversity of selected data couples with a qualitative method to explore an alternative perspective involving personal life stories. It will seek to identify any new initiatives and innovative ideas leading to discussions on suggestions that may impinge on current practice.

Ref no 2006/42

Title **HOW ARE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PERSONALITY PROFILES, LOCUS OF CONTROL, SOCIAL BACKGROUND INFLUENCES AND COPING STRATEGIES RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF EXACERBATIONS THAT PEOPLE WITH SEVERE ASTHMA SUFFER?**

Author Alison POOLER

Abstract There is considerable evidence to support the notion that patients' medical conditions do not exist in a vacuum, but are influenced by psychological and social factors. There factors are related to both the curse and progress of the disease. There are a limited number of drugs that people with severe asthma can take and at the does required, there are also associated side effects that occur. Alternative management approaches need to be identified for this sub group of people with asthma and it is hoped that this study will help to highlight these and encourage further research into the social and psychological aspects of asthma management.

Ref no 2006/43

Title **WHAT IS THE RESEARCH POTENTIAL OF MASTER EDUCATED NURSES AND MIDWIVES?**

Author Narelle GREGOR

Masters programmes provide nurses and midwives with invaluable opportunities to develop research competence, while undertaking research that can contribute to practice.

Abstract The aim of this study is to present a picture regarding masters educated nurses and midwives working within NHS Lothian – University Hospitals Division. Understanding their attitudes towards the role of research, their perceptions of research expertise and the extent of their current research will, hopefully allow further development of strategies for staff education and development.

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Title **CASCADE TESTING FOR FAMILIAL HYPERCHOLESTEROLAEMIA IN MINORITY ETHNIC GROUPS**

Author Jenett Mabella FARRER

Familial Hypercholesterolaemia (FH) occurs in approximately one in 500 people, and is caused by a gene change resulting in elevated cholesterol levels. If a parent has FH each child has a 50:50 chance of inheriting it. Many people in the UK are undiagnosed and if identified could be helped with lifestyle advice and medication to lower their cholesterol levels and reduce their risk of heart disease. Affected relatives can usually be identified by their elevated cholesterol levels.

Abstract Cascade testing has been proven to be effective in white population, and the research involved finding the most culturally competent way of identifying FH relatives in minority ethnic groups through cascade testing.