Governance

**The Quality Assurance Framework for nursing and midwifery education and local supervising authorities for midwifery.** NMC, June 2013
NMC’s new three-year quality assurance strategy

**Falls: assessment and prevention of falls in older people**
NICE guidance CG161, issued June 2013, recommends that all hospital patients aged over 65 (and those aged 50 and above who have, e.g., dementia, stroke, vision or hearing problems) should be considered at high risk of falling, and should have a tailored care plan drawn up

**Stroke rehabilitation: long-term rehabilitation after stroke**
NICE guidance CG162, issued June 2013, recommends that patients with a disability following stroke should be offered targeted therapy in a dedicated stroke inpatient unit as soon as possible, and when discharged, should be cared for by a specialist community stroke team
http://publications.nice.org.uk/stroke-rehabilitation-cg162

**Familial breast cancer. Classification and care of people at risk of familial breast cancer and management of breast cancer and related risks in people with a family history of breast cancer.**
NICE Clinical Guideline CG164, issued June 2013 (replaces Guidelines 14 and 41)
Prescribing of Tamoxifen or Raloxifene approved for healthy women at high risk of breast cancer - as an alternative to preventative surgery

**Social anxiety disorder: recognition, assessment and treatment**
NICE clinical guideline CG159, issued May 2013

**Growing up in the UK: ensuring a healthy future for our children**
BMA Board of Science, May 2013
Update of the BMA’s 1999 report on children’s health, incorporating the latest global research

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Governance (continued)

Northern Ireland’s first Electronic Care Record (ECR) system launched

Information: To Share or Not To Share? The Information Governance Review
Independent review, chaired by Dame Fiona Caldicott; examines how information about patients is shared across the health and care system
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-information-governance-review

Leadership

Cultural change necessary throughout the Health Service
_Nursing Times_, 26 June, 2013: opinion piece on the need for leaders to introduce culture change in the wake of the Francis Report’s findings and recommendations

Workforce

RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year awards 2013, 6 June 2013
Geraldine Browne, manager of Silverdale Care Home, Castlederg, received the award for transforming the way patients are cared for in the home, leading to fewer hospital transfers
http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/northern_ireland/nursing_home_manager_is_rcn_northern_ireland_nurse_of_the_year_2013/_nocache

Investigating the actual and potential role of the General Practitioner, Practice Nurse and Nurse Practitioner In the prevention of cancer
Cancer Focus Northern Ireland & University of Ulster, 2013

Centre for Workforce Intelligence reports published
A series of reports and summaries on the future shape of nursing and midwifery workforces to 2016, and horizon-scanning reports looking 20 years ahead

Let’s shout about the complexity of nursing
_Nursing Times_, 11 June, 2013: Jenni Middleton expresses concern that even some in very senior NHS positions seem to think that compassionate care and clinical tasks are unrelated; she urges the profession to speak out strongly about what nursing really is

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Policy/Strategy

‘Traffic Light’ food labelling system launched in Northern Ireland, 19 June 2013
Health Minister, Edwin Poots welcomed the Food Standards Agency initiative, hoping that this colour-coded, front-of-pack labelling will help tackle one of our major public health issues by making it easier to see how much fat, saturated fat, salt, sugars and energy are in food products

A Charter for Strengthening Relations between Paid Staff and Volunteers, 4 June, 2013
Volunteers play an essential role in the economic and social fabric of Northern Ireland; this joint charter, published by Volunteer Now and the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) in Northern Ireland, sets out the principles on which volunteering is organised, describing how good relationships are built between volunteers and paid health and social care staff
http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/northern_ireland/rcn_launches_joint_charter_to_promote_volunteering_in_health_and_social_care

Moving care to the community: an international perspective
RCN Policy and International Department Policy Briefing 12/13, May 2013
Examines differences and similarities in approach, internationally

Education/Development

An investigation of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the case management approach for older people with multiple chronic conditions within a community healthcare setting
Lupari, M., PhD thesis, University of Ulster
Research investigating the effectiveness of the case management approach in reducing hospital readmission rates amongst older people, evaluating its cost effectiveness and impact on patients’ health-related quality of life and on carers’ strain levels
http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/researchanddevelopment/newsevents/research_society/marina_lupari_phd_thesis

FoNS Patients First Programme: call for applications
This programme supports nurse-led teams across the UK in developing, implementing and evaluating locally-focused innovations that improve patient care in any setting; it is being extended to a further 11 teams - applications now invited, closing date 11 September 2013

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Education/Development (continued)

**Interventions to improve antibiotic prescribing practices for hospital inpatients**
Davey, P. et al. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, 2013, Issue 4
Inappropriate and excessive antibiotics prescribing – which has led to the emergence of multi-drug resistant bacteria - can be reduced by targeting prescribers with relevant education

**Men almost three times more likely than women to suffer from oesophageal cancer**
Cancer Research UK has released figures which show that men are at higher risk of contracting this disease, in what the organisation describes as a ‘quiet epidemic’

**Patient Experience**

'Staff lack vital skills in caring for visually impaired people'
*Nursing Times*, Practice Comment, 21 June, 2013
A former nurse describes his frustrating experience as a visually impaired hospital patient, who has found that staff often lack basic knowledge of the small offers of additional assistance such a patient might require; he warns that this can result in feelings of abandonment and anxiety

**National Care Home Open Day, 21 June, 2013**
Social Care Institute for Excellence staff visited care homes across the UK; Chief Executive, Andrea Sutcliffe, visited Glebe House, Belfast, where she entered into various ‘fun’ activities, spoke with staff, and found out how the home supports residents
http://scie-mailing.org.uk/t/4O5-1M5PA-CATWNY1A5/cr.aspx