

Woundcare4Heroes runs trauma programme

Woundcare4Heroes, a UK charity that supports the NHS in providing lifelong care for those discharged from the Armed Forces, has been asked by the Trauma Care charity to develop a full-day programme at the 14th International Trauma Care conference to be held in Telford, 22–26 April 2013.

The wound care and burns programme will take place on 24 April and will include expert speakers from the fields of tissue viability

and plastic surgery, as well as representatives of Woundcare4Heroes. Sessions will cover topics such as “Treatment for wounds – what, when, why and how?” “The future of wound healing,” and “After the acute stage – scarring pathology, outline management of post burn reconstruction and the future of scar management”.

The event is open to all clinicians caring for patients with traumatic wounds. For further programme information, visit the Woundcare4Heroes website (<http://bit.ly/Z2BYmd>).

Wounds UK is proud to support Woundcare4Heroes, which was launched to develop a national network of complex wound management services to support the increasing needs and challenges faced by the UK Armed Forces and the NHS caring for those discharged from military service. ■



New service model published for district nurses

Set within the framework of the 2012 document *Compassion in Practice: A Vision For Nurses, Midwives And Care Staff*, a new document called *Care In Local Communities: A New Vision And Model For District Nursing* has been released to set the service model for district nurses working in England.

The document presents a strong foundation for care in the community and identifies the developments that ensure district-nursing services can meet current and future needs. It provides tools for leadership and support with three core elements: population and caseload management; support and care for patients who are unwell recovering at home and at end of life; and support and care for independence.

These guidelines will be a useful resource for those planning community health services. ■

Final Mid Staffordshire report published

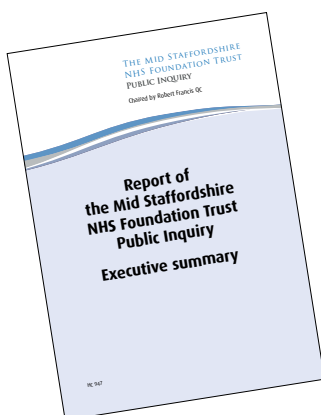
On 6 February, 2013, the final report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry, monitoring the hospital

between January 2005 and March 2009, was published.

The report's purpose was to examine the official bodies of the Trust and ask why patients were not put before corporate self-interest and cost-control. Building on an earlier report in 2010, it inspects why serious issues had not been addressed earlier and pinpoints lessons for the future.

The inquiry Chairman, Robert Francis, made 290 recommendations in the report, encouraging patient-centred practice throughout the NHS.

He commented: “The NHS can provide great care and ... should make sure that happens everywhere.” ■



Wounds UK's Keith Harding awarded CBE

Keith Harding, Professor at Cardiff University and a member of the *Wounds UK* Editorial Board, was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours List 2013. Professor Harding was honoured for his services to medicine and healthcare.

Professor Harding's contribution to wound care – through clinical practice, teaching, research, and publishing – has been substantial and the *Wounds UK* team congratulates him on his much-deserved award. It is heartening that a champion of wound care like Professor Harding has been recognised for his passion and commitment to this specialty. ■

Baroness appointed to lead review of Liverpool Care Pathway

Following a roundtable with the Liverpool Care Pathway for the Dying Patient (LCP), Baroness Julia Neuberger has been appointed by the Care and Support Minister, Norman Lamb, to chair an independent review that will aim to understand how LCP is being used in practice.



Image: Near the end. Credit: Lee J. Haywood on Flickr.

Baroness Neuberger, a Senior Rabbi at the West London Synagogue and a former Chief Executive of the King's Fund, along with a review panel, will hold numerous evidence sessions, invite written submissions, and will also invite families to tell their stories at a designated session. The review will examine several aspects of LCP, including the experiences of patients, families, and healthcare providers, as well as complaints and local payments to hospitals. The literature about LCP will also be examined.

The review will make recommendations, if necessary, to amend the LCP to improve care and ensure that patients, families, and carers are always involved in decision-making. ■

Flowable wound matrix launched in Europe

Integra® Lifesciences has received European Union (EU) CE Mark certification for its Integra® Flowable Wound Matrix.

Integra Flowable Wound Matrix, a liquid version of Integra's collagen-based wound matrix, comprises granulated cross-linked bovine tendon collagen and glycosaminoglycan, which is hydrated with saline. The flowable matrix is applied with a syringe, and can be used in deep soft tissue or tunnelling wounds, including diabetic foot ulcers and leg ulcers.

The product's release in Europe is supported by the successful use of the matrix for the past 5 years on a wide variety of wounds in the USA and Latin America, including partial and full-thickness wounds, pressure ulcers, venous ulcers, tunnelled or undermined wounds, and surgical, trauma, and draining wounds.

The flowable matrix also won first prize at the annual Société Française de Chirurgie Plastique Reconstructrice et Esthétique meeting. It was voted the most innovative product based on its performance by the majority of surgeons who attended.

"We are extremely honoured that Integra's Flowable Wound Matrix has been recognised by surgeons as one of the most innovative new products available for the management of chronic wounds," said Debbie Leonetti, Integra's Corporate Vice-president, and President – International. "Tens of thousands of patients in Europe suffer from chronic wounds and leg ulcers that progress to deep or tunnelling wounds, and they face serious risk of amputation. Integra's Flowable Wound Matrix now offers surgeons and patients a new option for managing these hard-to-access wounds."

The matrix is aimed at helping reduce the increasing number of chronic wounds in the EU, particularly diabetic foot wounds. ■

Have your say to improve care

The Department of Health (DH) wants nurses and midwives to provide feedback and ideas on how to reduce wasted time on unnecessary paperwork and bureaucracy so more time can be spent caring for patients.

The DH webpage, "Views sought from nurses and midwives on ideas to improve patient care by reducing paperwork", allows staff to post ideas, comment on posts by other staff members, and vote for their favourite ideas.

The website is open for idea submissions and comments until 1 March, 2013. Shortly after, the DoH will publish a report on the most popular ideas and how healthcare organisations have applied some of the suggestions in practice.

Have your say at: <http://bit.ly/12tHGm0> ■

Urgo launches RCT on DFU dressings

Urgo Medical commenced the Explorer study in January 2013, with the aim of determining the efficacy of UrgoStart® Contact (Urgo Medical) for treating diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs).

To be conducted across five European countries, with a large sample size and a long treatment period and follow-up, this ambitious randomised control trial (RCT) aims to objectively assess UrgoStart Contact, a technology lipidocolloid dressing with nano-oligosaccharide factor, and will finish in December 2015.

There is a lack of firm evidence for the efficacy of dressings in the management of DFUs and this study is designed to make a major contribution to the evidence base ■