Nursing bulletin

August 2026

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, and best practice on Nursing

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Guidelines/Reports

Nurse prescribing in adult social care: Evidence review
The King's Fund
The purpose of this paper is to review evidence on the impact of nurse prescribing in adult social care and community based settings, including primary care and community health services. The evidence review aims to clarify what is known about the benefits and challenges associated with nurse prescribing in adult social care and how findings from wider community-based care can be applied to adult social care settings.

Published Research

Effectiveness of clinical champion educational program on nurses' geriatric nursing knowledge, attitudes, and competence: a quasi-experimental study
BMC Nursing, August 2026
Global population aging has made the care needs of older patients increasingly complex, placing greater demands on clinical nurses. However, nurses' preparedness for geriatric care remains insufficient, highlighting the need for educational strategies that strengthen competence and support learning transfer into practice. This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of a clinical champion educational program in improving clinical nurses' geriatric nursing knowledge, competence, and attitudes.

Enablers and Barriers to Nurse Managers' Leadership of Evidence-Based Practice During Organisational Change: A Qualitative Study
Nursing Open, August 13(8)
Organisational readiness, partnerships and expertise in evidence-based practice shape how nurse managers lead evidence-based practice during organisational change. These factors influence the consistency of care, staff support and the ability to sustain evidence-based practice in evolving healthcare environments.

Junior nurses' wound care knowledge and attitude towards wound care and training aspirations: a training needs analysis
British Journal of Nursing, August 2026
The aim of this study was to undertake a training needs analysis for wound care. Wound care is predominantly within the remit of registered nurses. This study sought to ascertain junior nurses' knowledge, attitudes and training requirements to future-proof their education.

Clinical Skills/Knowledge

Enhanced observation in acute hospital settings: transforming care from reactive supervision to therapeutic engagement
Nursing Management, August 2026
Management of patients who experience agitation or confusion in acute hospital settings, particularly those with dementia or delirium, can involve one-to-one supervision. In England, national guidance advocates a move away from passive supervision towards active therapeutic engagement centred on an Enhanced Therapeutic Observation and Care (ETOC) model. This article details a service improvement initiative that implemented an ETOC model in one trust in England.

How to implement AI-based rostering to ease the administrative burden on nurse managers
Nursing Management, August 2026
Nurse managers spend a significant amount of their working day on administrative duties, notably rostering, which can leave them with little time to engage with their teams. The use of artificial intelligence-based (AI-based) rostering platforms, combined with flexible staffing schedules, can reduce the administrative burden on nurse managers and provide more flexibility for staff.

Keeping people with dementia moving in hospital to reduce pressure ulcer risk: complexities in care
British Journal of Nursing, August 2026
People with dementia occupy up to 21% of UK hospital beds at any one time and are at increased risk of developing pressure ulcers. Keeping moving is a fundamental component of pressure ulcer prevention. However, the physical, behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia can affect a person's ability to ‘keep moving’ during a hospital admission.

Non-pharmacological interventions for managing chronic pain in patients affected by venous leg ulcers
British Journal of Nursing, August 2026
Venous leg ulcers (VLUs) are often accompanied by chronic pain, which is frequently managed through pharmacological treatments, including opioids, which can have undesirable effects and complications. Recent evidence advocates for the integration of non-pharmacological therapies to improve pain management and patient outcomes.

Opioid use in end-of-life care: balancing efficacy and risk
British Journal of Community Nursing, August 2026
The care and symptom management a person receives at the end of life plays a significant role in maintaining comfort and dignity. This article explores the role of opioids in managing pain at the end of life, discusses common adverse effects and opioid toxicity, examines ethical and legal considerations surrounding opioid administration, and highlights the importance of person-centred assessment.

Stoma products, diet support and complication awareness for community care
British Journal of Community Nursing, August 2026
Managing stomas in the community requires a knowledge of stoma products, when the products should be used and how to effectively use them. This article discusses the products in detail and the possible complications associated with improper use. Diet also plays a crucial role and community nurses are often asked for advice by their patients.

The author also explores the role of community nurses in ensuring that people living with a stoma do not feel isolated and that their quality of life is not impacted.

Supporting effective anticipatory prescribing in end of life care
Nursing Standard, August 2026
Anticipatory prescribing is the prescribing and provision of medicines ahead of time to people whose death is expected. It is recognised as effective practice for patients receiving palliative and end of life care. This article explores the evidence and guidance to support anticipatory prescribing, alongside the benefits and challenges associated with this practice.

The role instinct can play in identifying deterioration
Nursing Standard. 41, 8, 31-32
Recognising when a patient is deteriorating relies on a complex range of skills, including using tools appropriately, exercising clinical judgement and trusting your nursing instincts. This article contains experts' guidance on developing and trusting your instincts to recognise when a patient's condition is deteriorating

Understanding and managing inappropriate sexual behaviour in individuals with dementia
Nursing Standard, August 2026
Inappropriate sexual behaviour (ISB) is a recognised but underdiscussed aspect of the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. ISB can have significant negative effects on the individual, their family caregivers, and healthcare professionals. Nurses have a central role in assessing and managing ISB, therefore it is essential that they understand the underlying causes of such behaviours and are able to respond compassionately and professionally.

News/Blogs/Editorials

Nurse-led initiative to help patients be independent in hospital
Nursing Times, August 2026
A quality improvement project that aims to help patients maintain their independence, dignity and mobility while in hospital is set to be expanded across Somerset. It is designed to tackle one of the biggest challenges facing healthcare services – namely the deconditioning that can occur when patients spend long periods inactive during a hospital stay.

Rights of unpaid carers: what do you need to know as a nurse?
RCN, August 2026
As a dementia nurse, I find the legal position of unpaid family carers is often misunderstood by the carers themselves.

UK heatwave: nursing staff working in 'impossible and inhumane' conditions
RCN, August 2026
A heat-proof overhaul of NHS buildings and services is needed to protect staff and patients, the RCN says

What we wish we'd known before taking senior roles
Nursing Standard. 41, 8, 20-21
Transitioning into a senior nursing role means moving beyond bedside care to lead teams, drive clinical excellence and think strategically. Three senior nurses reveal how they learned to delegate and communicate effectively, and support and lead teams