



Nursing bulletin

May 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

[Independent prescribing in the UK: Workforce ambitions and implementation challenges](#)
Nuffield Trust, April 2026

Health professionals such as nurses, pharmacists and AHPs who can prescribe medicines, known as independent prescribers, are a critical and growing part of the NHS workforce and key to shifting care into the community. However, our report finds current arrangements fall short, with limited planning, inconsistent access to training and supervision, and gaps in regulation, oversight and data.

Published Research

[Clinical Incivility, Perceived Stress, and Psychological Resilience in Nursing Students](#)
Journal of Nursing Education, May 2026

The shortage of nurses and early attrition of nursing students are global challenges. Incivility in clinical practice is associated with stress and may relate to students' intention to leave the profession. Psychological resilience is linked to better stress management.

[Nurses' Experiences of Pain Management for Patients With Diagnosed Mental Health Conditions: A Systematic Review](#)

Journal of Advanced Nursing, April 2026

This review highlights the ongoing challenges nurses encounter in assessing and managing pain and the need for enhanced education and institutional support to strengthen nurses' capacity for effective pain assessment and management in patients with diagnosed mental health conditions. Stigma continues to shape clinical decision-making, often leading to under-assessment and inadequate treatment of pain.

Tackling nurses' mental health issues: key risk factors, consequences and organisational solutions for improving well-being

Evidence-Based Nursing, March 2026

Mental health issues among nurses are widespread and jeopardise healthcare systems and patient care. Yang et al conducted a pioneering scoping review using cohort study evidence to explore the risk factors and consequences of these issues, marking the first comprehensive longitudinal analysis in this area.

Clinical Skills/Knowledge

Acute deterioration in adults: pathophysiology of common signs and symptoms

Nursing Standard, April 2026

Early recognition and management of acute deterioration is essential to reduce the risk of patients experiencing catastrophic events, such as cardiac arrest. This article explores the



pathophysiology of common signs and symptoms of acute deterioration. Nurses undertake clinical monitoring and observation of patients in acute care settings and are therefore ideally placed to recognise and act on these signs and symptoms.

Deterioration and CPR: a new course to guide conversations

Nursing Standard, 41, 5, 12-13

When caring for people who are at risk of deterioration, it is essential that nurses and healthcare professionals have meaningful conversations with them and those close to them about what treatments, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), may be appropriate in an emergency. The ReSPECT framework supports nursing staff to discuss emergency treatments such as CPR with patients and families.

How to design and deliver a nurse fellowship

Nursing Management, May 2026

Nurse fellowships are typically offered to support the professional development of early-to-mid-career nurses and can provide benefits to the organisation as well as the individual nurse. In addition, a nurse fellowship can become a sustainable element of an organisation's professional development and clinical academic pathway for nurses with an interest in research, quality improvement and innovation.

Managing the long-term and late effects of radiotherapy for head and neck cancer

Cancer Nursing Practice, May 2026

Radiotherapy is an important component of treatment for head and neck cancer and offers substantial benefits in terms of tumour control and survival. However, radiotherapy has a range of progressive and debilitating side effects. This article discusses the long-term and late effects of radiotherapy for head and neck cancer. It describes the range of needs patients may have and the role of nurses in assessing, supporting and referring patients.

Patient perspectives on prehabilitation before systemic anticancer therapy

Cancer Nursing Practice, May 2026

Prehabilitation aims to optimise physical and psychological readiness between cancer diagnosis and treatment. Although well established in surgical pathways, its role in people preparing to start systemic anticancer therapy remains underexplored. Key themes highlighted the importance of early professional introduction, clear communication, practical accessibility and a holistic approach.

Prescribing: making effective, appropriate, safe and cost-effective decisions

Nursing Standard, May 2026

Non-medical prescribing has expanded significantly in the UK since its introduction, bringing increased responsibilities and accountability for non-medical prescribers (NMPs). It is essential that NMPs are equipped to maintain high standards of prescribing practice. This article discusses crucial factors for NMPs to consider when making prescribing decisions, focusing on effectiveness, appropriateness, safety and cost-effectiveness.

[Reframing obesity: what it means for clinical practice](#)

Nursing in Practice, May 2026

Despite decades of research pointing to its biological and social complexity, obesity is still often viewed as a matter of personal choice and willpower. Dr Angie Jackson-Morris, director of programme development and strategy at World Obesity Federation, explains why reframing obesity as a chronic, relapsing disease is essential to delivering effective, compassionate care.



[Screening adults for malnutrition using the MUST: an update](#)

British Journal of Nursing, April 2026

The Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool (MUST), launched in 2003, is a validated screening tool to support the early recognition of malnutrition risk in adults across a wide variety of health and care settings. This review sets out the current evidence to support its use and discusses common challenges with completing it in practice. Practical information and signposting to the latest supporting resources are provided.

Skin and soft tissue abscesses: assessment and management

Nursing Standard, May 2026

This article discusses the aetiology, assessment and management of patients presenting with purulent skin and soft tissue abscesses and identifies opportunities for nurses to refine their assessment practices, optimise interventions and enhance patient outcomes. The author also discusses alternative surgical practices that nurses should be aware of to ensure they are able to provide patients with evidence-based care.

The complex nutrition virtual ward: a nurse-led service innovation to improve safety, efficiency and patient experience

British Journal of Nursing, April 2026

Virtual wards are increasingly used to deliver acute level care in the community. The Complex Nutrition Virtual Ward was established at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to provide specialist community management for patients with complex nutritional needs who would otherwise require prolonged inpatient admission. This evaluation reports activity, safety outcomes and patient experience over the first 3 years of the ward's operation.

Tips to broaden your CPD options – and get funding

Nursing Standard, 41, 5, 20-21

Continuing professional development (CPD) is a vital part of maintaining safe and effective nursing practice and is also important for nurses' career development. But nurses report that issues such as short-staffing and a lack of resources mean it can be hard to access opportunities for CPD. So how can nurses maximise opportunities to learn and develop, and why is it important to do so?

When can nurses be at risk of care failures, neglect and legal action?

Mental Health Practice, 29, 3, 10-11

In February this year, a nurse who had already been stuck off was jailed and another nurse heavily fined after the death of an 84-year-old woman who fell from a wheelchair. Find out when an incident at work may be deemed criminal and either an organisation or nursing staff viewed as being at fault.

News/Blogs/Editorials/Opinion

Job swaps can't fix frailty care, but here's what can

Cancer Nursing Practice, 25, 3, 11-11

Gaps between hospital and home can only be filled if services enable us to get the nursing practicalities right. Frailty care is struggling and though job swaps can improve understanding and teamwork, they are not a total fix. A nurse-led job swap project, linking care home nurses with a hospital frailty team, is the sort of collaboration that changes behaviour around safety practices before it changes policy.



NHS band 5 role reviews – your questions answered

Nursing Standard, 41, 5, 10-11

Every band 5 nurse in England's NHS is to have their role reviewed. Nurses' jobs will then be reevaluated by their employers to match them to the appropriate pay band or point. Some nurses could move up a pay point or even up to band 6 or 7. So what will the process involve and do you need to do anything? Here's everything you need to know.

New books in our catalogue [Please email to request]

Complex Care in Nursing edited by Sally-Anne Wherry and Nikki Buck

Working with people living with complex health needs is an everyday part of the nursing role. It requires an understanding of different conditions and co-morbidities, of the health and social care services available to manage them and of the influence of societal and political factors.

Effective Communication for Nursing Associates by Kerry Welch

Communication is central to providing high quality, person-centred care as a Nursing Associate. This book will help you to communicate effectively with patients, families, carers and your interprofessional team, encouraging you to develop your own unique voice.

Gastrointestinal nursing: care and management of digestive disorders edited by Leigh Donnelly and Shellie Radford

Gastrointestinal Nursing is an authoritative exploration of common diseases of the GI tract, offering evidence-based insights into the complexities of digestive health and unravelling the intricate functions of digestion, secretion, and elimination.

Leading quality improvement in nursing, health & social care edited by Annette Chowthi-Williams

This book is an indispensable guide to the principles and practice of quality improvement (QI) in healthcare, and the related leadership and change theories. Packed with practical tips and resources, you'll learn how to use leadership and QI theory to identify, plan, implement, evaluate and sustain change in your study, placement and future career.

Oxford Handbook of Adult Nursing 3rd Edition edited by Maria Flynn, Stella Kenrick and Peter Noon

The *Oxford Handbook of Adult Nursing 3rd edition* reflects the ever-changing role of nurses and nursing in the post-pandemic world. The central focus of the handbook is everyday clinical nursing practice and decision-making, recognising the wider context of external factors which impact on nurses and nursing.

Reflective practice in nursing and midwifery: a comprehensive guide by Ann Donohoe

Reflective practice - learning from experience - is fundamental to the delivery of effective and safe quality care. This book is specifically designed for any student, nurse, midwife, educator or researcher seeking to advance their understanding of reflection and its role in practice.