

FOM Activities for POOSH Meeting December 8th 2009

Launched 23/11/2009: Keeping NHS staff fit and well - Dr Steve Boorman's final report

The Government has accepted in full recommendations from an independent report into the health and well-being of NHS Staff which will help the NHS save up to £555 million, Health Secretary Andy Burnham announced on 23rd November. The recommendations could save up to 3.4 million working days equivalent to 14,900 extra staff and were made in a Department of Health commissioned report on NHS staff health and well-being led by Dr Steve Boorman FFOM.

Dr Boorman's final report makes 20 recommendations, including:

- NHS organisations have a prevention-focused health and well-being strategy in place for all staff;
- Senior management made accountable at each organisation for staff health and well-being which will be measured as part of the annual assessments of NHS performance; and
- Early interventions for staff with musculo-skeletal and mental health conditions, to help minimise the time staff must spend suffering with these problems, and support early return to work.

If implemented, NHS organisations could see a reduction in staff sickness absence, an improvement in the quality of patient care and potentially save the NHS around £555 million each year. These savings can then be ploughed back to improve the quality of patient care.

Occupational Health Service Standards and Accreditation

In August 2008 the Faculty of Occupational Medicine invited stakeholders to join a working group to develop standards and a system of voluntary accreditation for occupational health services in the United Kingdom. Stakeholders included representatives from occupational medical and nursing professional bodies, commercial occupational health providers, employer and worker representative bodies and government departments and regulators*.

The standards are being introduced one year ahead of the launch of the accreditation scheme. This will permit occupational health services to acquaint themselves with the standards and start to put systems in place to collect the evidence required for the accreditation process.

The standards and system of voluntary accreditation for occupational health services aim to:

- (i) enable services to identify the standards of practice to which they should aspire;
- (ii) credit good work being done by high quality occupational health services, providing independent validation that they satisfy standards of quality;
- (iii) raise standards where they need to be raised; and
- (iv) help purchasers differentiate occupational health services that attain the desired standards from those that do not.

These measures should help to raise the overall standard of care provided by occupational health services in the United Kingdom, thus helping to make a meaningful difference to the health of people of working age.

Revalidation update

On 16 November 2009 the General Medical Council introduced the licence to practice as the first step towards the introduction of revalidation. An update on revalidation has been prepared by Dr Rob Thornton, Director of Professional Development. There are multiple strands of work recently completed or under way, including the development of standards, the move to on-line CPD, a new CPD framework, and the new role of Responsible Officers.

The GMC's UK Revalidation Programme Board has prepared the following statements to describe revalidation.

Revalidation is the process by which doctors will regularly demonstrate to the GMC that they remain up to date and fit to practise. Revalidation has three elements:

- *To confirm that licensed doctors practise in accordance with the GMC's generic standards*

(relicensing).

- *For doctors on the specialist or GP register, to confirm that they meet the standards appropriate for their specialty (recertification).*
- *As a backstop, to identify for further investigation, and remediation where appropriate, doctors whose practice may be impaired.*

Winter Conference “Risky Business”

Took Place at Royal College of Physicians on 2nd December

Autumn Conference “Confidentiality and Consent”

Took place in Manchester on 1st October

Recent Publications

Upper Limb Disorders: Occupational Aspects of Management

Dermatitis: Occupational Aspects of Management

Physical and Shift Work in Pregnancy: Occupational Aspects of Management

These publications are available on the FOM Website at <http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/pubspol/pubs.jsp>