

RCN Update Report for POOSH Meeting - May 2015

Support for members raising health and safety concerns at work

The RCN has developed a guide to make it easier for staff to assess whether a situation they have witnessed or experienced should be raised as a concern, and to support them through the process of reporting it. They have also published information for members about the information to be included when raising a health and safety concern.

RCN Safety Representatives - reporting concerns to HSE

RCN has provided advice for Safety Reps on how to raise concerns outside the employer. The HSE has produced an online form to allow safety representatives to notify them of concerns. RCN advice is that internal mechanisms to raise and resolve health and safety issues should be used wherever possible but if the employer refuses to address the concern the form can be used. Reps are advised to discuss the use of the form with their mentors/regional & country contacts.

The form can only be used by union accredited safety representatives and can be accessed at www.hse.gov.uk/involvement/hsrepresentatives.

Bullying and Harassment at Work

The RCN has also recently produced guidance for members on Bullying and Harassment, including how to recognise bullying and harassment, the legal responsibilities of employers under health and safety and employment legislation and practical measures to deal with bullying and harassment at work.

There will also be an event at RCN congress in June on this subject.

Current work streams of RCN safety representatives

At their last UK safety, representative's committee key topics for discussion were shift patterns, 12-hour shifts and workplace stress. The committee is currently developing a position on 12-hour shifts, which will be discussed at their next meeting.

The annual John Goodlad Memorial Lecture will be delivered at RCN Congress in June by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust focussing on personal safety at work, reducing risks to lone workers and issues of stalking.

Occupational Health Nursing Resources

The public health forum has undertaken development of the RCN webpages to provide additional resources for occupational health nurses members. This includes an FAQ section to deal with issues around scope of practice, disclosure and maintenance of records, statutory medicals, and insurance issues for OH nurses.

