**Governance**

**Review of the NMC**
As reported in *Skills4Nurses*, the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, which is carrying out the four-month investigation (February – May), has formulated two key questions: these concern whether the NMC’s leadership, management, structure and resources are appropriate to the efficient delivery of its regulatory functions; and changes needed to ensure delivery of its statutory duties and functions in the most effective and efficient manner.

http://www.scottishirishhealthcare.com/?newsArticleView+265

**RQIA announces Pseudomonas Review Terms of Reference and Independent Review Team Membership**
The review team will present an interim report to the Health Minister at the end of March, and produce its final report by the end of May 2012.


**NICE 2012**
**NICE Annual Conference, 15-16 May 2012, ICC, Birmingham**
Will examine the role of NICE and how it fits in with current reforms; how it will work with the NHS Commissioning Board; how quality standards are being used in practice; Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health and Professor Malcolm Grant, Chair, NHS Commissioning Board confirmed as keynote speakers.

http://www.niceconference.org.uk/

**INVOLVE Conference - call for presentations now open**
This conference (to be held 13-14 November, 2012) will bring together members of the public, service users, researchers, research commissioners and voluntary sector representatives, who share a common interest in public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research.

http://www.invo.org.uk/posttypenews/involve-2012-conference-call-for-presentations/

**Nursing forum’s four themes unveiled**
*Nursing Times*, Feb 28, 2012
The new Care Quality Forum will focus on four themes, outlined by Deputy Chief Nursing Officer for England, David Foster: *People First; Values and Culture; Time to Care; Leadership.*
The need for better leadership at ward sister level was stressed and it was announced that hourly nursing rounds would be systematically implemented.

http://m.nursingtimes.net/5041894.article
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement web seminar,  
Wednesday 7 March, 10 -11am  
Overview of the NHS Leadership Framework, launched last July, and introduction to the 
leadership self assessment tool, which helps people to review their leadership skills and 
understand their development needs.  
http://www.institute.nhs.uk/option,com_attend_events/task,view/id,182.html

The Leadership Framework Self Assessment Tool can be downloaded at 
http://nhsleadershipframework.rightmanagement.co.uk/assets/x/50173

Meeting patient expectations is 'biggest problem' facing nursing  
55% of nurses surveyed by Nursing Times highlighted this issue as their greatest concern, with 52% 
citing workforce cuts. 70% listed staffing cuts as, in their view, endangering patient safety.  
http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-specialisms/management/meeting-patient- 
expectations-is-biggest-problem-facing-nursing/5041565.article

Nursing academic speaks out against district nurse cuts  
Vicky Kaye, Senior Lecturer in Primary Care, University of Huddersfield, warns that cutting back on 
district and community nurse numbers is a “false economy”; she argues that community nursing 
teams play a vital role in modern healthcare and offer value for money, combining clinical, leadership 
and management skills.  
http://m.nursingtimes.net/5041873.article

Vitamin D concerns  
Following concerns about vitamin D deficiency, the four Chief Medical Officers have written to health 
professionals, encouraging them to use routine contact to raise awareness of this issue.  
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/vitamin-d/

17th International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare - Solutions for Tough Times  
April 17-20, 2012, Le Palais des Congrès de Paris  
3,000 health care professionals from over 80 countries will attend this forum to discuss how delivery of 
safe and improved care, while reducing costs, remains an ongoing challenge.  
http://internationalforum.bmj.com/2012-forum

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National Institute for Health Research to award professorships
Government has announced funding for the appointment of eight professors, from among the UK’s most promising leaders in medical health research, to lead research into conditions affecting millions of patients.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/nihr-professorships/

Patient Experience

Transforming Patient Experience: the essential guide
This online resource is for people with designated responsibility for improving patient experience, either service providers or commissioners.

Research links online patient feedback and hospital performance
Independent research published by Imperial College, London links - for the first time - patient feedback on the NHS Choices website with hospital performance measures. This is significant, indicating that unsolicited online feedback may be more valuable than previously thought.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/patient-feedback/

Department of Health (England) publishes NHS Patient Experience Framework
Improving patient experience is a key NHS aim and this framework provides an evidence-based list of patients’ priorities; it can be used to direct service improvement in the areas that matter most to patients.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/02/patient-experience-framework/

Publication of The Dignity Code
Supported by politicians and the care industry, this sets out the minimum standard of treatment for older people in hospitals or in the community, with an emphasis on personal dignity, rights and respect.

Health & Wellbeing: Tackling Long Term Conditions,
30% of the population suffer from long term conditions. The programme for this conference features prestigious speakers, who will discuss how to shift towards a more flexible, person-centred health system, which will empower patients, improve outcomes and be cost-effective.
http://www.publicserviceevents.co.uk/214/health-and-wellbeing

People with rare cancers get a raw deal in research and care
John Newlands explores whether “certain cancers rule the research roost”, with the most common receiving the most attention.