Electronic or pneumatic, Anetic Aid's newly designed Tourniquet System is intuitive and simple to use, with many special safety features.

The electronic version operates from its own integral air supply, removing the need for an external pressure source, and both this and the pneumatic version have sensitive leak compensation facilities as well as automatic self diagnostic checks on start up which mean they are calibrated every time they are switched on.

An innovative added safety feature has been incorporated for Bier's block regional anaesthetic procedures (IVRA): it is simply not possible to deflate cuffs in the wrong order, risking the dangerous release of anaesthetic into the rest of the patient's body.

And of course the tourniquet machine is not a stand alone item: Anetic Aid also offers a complete range of tourniquet cuffs and other accessories.
Anetic Aid showcased latest operating theatre equipment at Arab Health

Anetic Aid showcased the latest in its range of next generation operating theatre equipment at the Arab Health exhibition in Dubai from 28 - 31 January 2013.

The UK company presented its new AT4 Tourniquet System, ideal for single or bi-lateral orthopaedic surgery and pain management. The system features a completely new design and has many special safety features built in, as well as being intuitive and simple to use.

The electronic version operates from its own integral air supply, removing the need for an external pressure source, and both this and the pneumatic version have sensitive leak compensation facilities as well as automatic self diagnostic checks on start up which mean they are calibrated every time they are switched on.

An innovative added safety feature has been incorporated for Bier’s block regional anaesthetic procedures (IVRA): it will simply not be possible to deflate cuffs in the wrong order risking the dangerous release of anaesthetic into the rest of the patient’s body.

Mike Pritchett, International Sales Manager, said: “We have been supplying high quality tourniquet systems for more than 30 years, but we are never complacent. We have spent the last two years working with new technologies and materials to take our tourniquet systems to a whole new level.”

And of course the tourniquet machine is not a stand alone item: Anetic Aid also offers high quality, functional and user-friendly patient trolleys: from the latest model of the flagship QA3 Patient Trolley to the highly sophisticated QA4 Day Surgery Trolley System which combines the functions of transport trolley, operating table and recovery bed.

Models of the popular QA3 can be found in virtually every hospital in the UK as well as with the British military overseas. Anetic Aid has supplied equipment to RFA ARGUS, the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship of the British Naval Service.

Its equipment includes eight QA3 Variable Height Patient Trolleys for the Emergency Department. In addition, eight AET Tourniquets from Anetic Aid’s wide range of theatre equipment have been supplied for the Royal Navy’s Role 2 (Damage Control and Resuscitation) medical capabilities afloat and ashore. This demonstrates both the equipment’s functionality, but also its robust construction.

Anetic Aid’s QA3 Patient Trolley, the new AT4 Tourniquet System, a wide range of operation table accessories and quality stainless steel furniture were also display at the Arab Health exhibition.

Artery Disease Faces Future Enemy in Bioabsorbable Stents

Coronary artery disease and peripheral artery disease are global health issues that affect millions of lives each year, and bioabsorbable stents are due to become the next step in treatment once the medical world has provided enough clinical data and prices are lowered, states a new report by research and consulting firm GlobalData.

Stent technology has evolved over the years to address the challenges of treating arterial diseases, and the new report® looks at bioabsorbable stents, which offer temporary scaffolding to the vessel and then disappear over time, leaving behind a healed artery. Bioabsorbable stents are in their infancy and there is a long road ahead before widespread adoption into clinical practice is reached, but GlobalData believes the technology holds the potential to revolutionize patient treatment.

Coronary and peripheral artery diseases affect over 7 million and 8 million people above the age of 65 years respectively, and will continue to increase in the future, states GlobalData’s Analyst for Cardiovascular Devices, Priya Madhavan, M.S.

Although traditional stents improve patient prognosis in comparison to invasive cardiac surgeries, complications such as restenosis and thrombosis remain a concern, and there is a demand from physicians to reduce the need for dual anti-platelet therapy, required when implanting bare metal and drug-eluting stents. Fully degradable and absorbable stents tackle all these concerns, and could potentially ensure quality long-term results for the patient.

Although bioabsorbable stents offer several advantages, GlobalData predicts that adoption of this technology will be slow in the US and Europe, as a lack of long-term clinical data and high prices remain barriers to public and professional acceptance.

Madhavan states: Bioabsorbable stent technology is novel and exciting, however, the technology is in the early stages of development and has a long road ahead before it becomes a standard of care in clinical practice. As bioabsorbable stents receive FDA approval, the US will acquire market share and steadily become the largest market through 2018 and beyond.

GlobalData estimates bioabsorbable stent sales to be US$4.2m in 2012 across the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, growing to over US$700m by the end of 2018 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 172%. The launch of fully bioabsorbable stent products currently in the pipeline, such as the DREAMS stent developed by Biotronik, and the FDA approval and launch of Absorb BVS and Remedy in the US are expected to significantly expand options within the bioabsorbable stent market.
Ultrasound to replace liver biopsy in diagnosis of liver fibrosis across the NHS

A non invasive ultrasound test is set to reduce the need for liver biopsy across the NHS following a guide published by the NHS Technology Assessment Centre (NTAC). The guide, commissioned by the NHS, will help trusts across the NHS undertake the practical steps to implementing this non invasive and cost effective diagnostic procedure rapidly.

The prevalence of liver disease is on the increase in the UK. One report from 2011 suggests that the number of people with liver disease in England is 2.3million, which equates to approximately 5% of the total population. Later stage liver disease, liver fibrosis, is associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Establishing the presence and extent of liver fibrosis is therefore crucial in managing a patient’s health.

Previously an assessment of liver fibrosis could only be determined by undertaking a liver biopsy. There are considerable downsides to this procedure, due to its invasive nature, an inherent risk of infection and the high costs of a surgical procedure and hospital attendance as an-in-patient. The use of Ultrasound Elastography, a non-invasive method of monitoring liver health, provides a safer and quicker diagnosis with no discomfort or worries about a surgical procedure for the patient as well as reducing costs by an estimated £520.

The NHS Technology Adoption Centre (NTAC) studied the implementation of Ultrasound Elastography within secondary care at three NHS trusts: King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, The North West London Hospitals NHS Trust and East Cheshire NHS Trust. They then drew up the pack of information and practical tools based on the findings that will help clinicians and managers in NHS trusts implement this new technology.

Economical modelling based upon real life implementation was produced by York Health Economic Consortium along with a bespoke costing tool that can help to inform local providers/commissions of the potential savings that can be made.

York estimated a gross saving of £520 each time a liver biopsy is replaced with an Ultrasound Elastography. When extrapolated across the NHS, this equates to a saving of £14.3m per annum based on current numbers.

NTAC Technology Implementation Manager, Stephen Hodges, said “This technology has had a very positive impact both for patients and for the NHS. It enables doctors to diagnose and monitor liver fibrosis much more closely than ever before and does so in a pain-free, safe and cost-effective way.”
Sick Workers Trudge into Work

Regardless

Increasing numbers of British workers claim they’re so worried about losing their jobs that many are trudging into work even when sick with a cold or flu, according to Fisherman’s Friends annual British Cold and Flu Survey. Six out of 10 workers said they didn’t take a single day off from work due to a cold or flu during 2012 and the average worker was struck down with an average of two such illnesses.

Research commissioned by Fisherman’s Friend – which polled 2,000 adults throughout the UK – also found that the average amount of time taken off by workers for such ailments was less than 1.4 days in 2012, compared with an average of two days the previous year, and more than double that number (four days) just four years ago.

The further fall in absenteeism is estimated to have shaved an extra £1.35 billion off the cost of winter ailments to the UK economy through lost working hours, with time off for colds and flu now leaving employers with a bill of £3.26 billion a year.

That compares with an estimated cost of £9 billion when Fisherman’s Friend conducted its first annual survey in 2008.

“Our annual survey makes fascinating reading as it shows how the average British worker is now increasingly determined to carry on working even when ill,” said Fisherman’s Friend spokesman Rob Metcalfe.

“During more auspicious times, people appear much more confident to call in sick and rest up until they get better. But when people fear for their jobs, they are much more determined to show their dedication to the cause, even when ill.”

Fisherman’s Friend also said it saw sales of its throat lozenges soar in the run up to Christmas 2012. “We have definitely seen a massive increase in the popularity of our products as workers look for help in managing their symptoms,” added Metcalfe.

“More than six million lozenges were sold in the UK in October alone – a staggering 32% more than last year, and the best sales figures we’ve seen for six years!”

WHAT IS CHANGE DAY?

NHS Change Day – a single day of collective action to demonstrate how small changes can have a big impact.

On the 13 March 2013 NHS Change Day will bring together the individual creativity, energy and innovative thinking of thousands of NHS staff from across clinical and non-clinical areas of work, in a single day of collective action to improve care for patients, their families and their carers.

Change Day is an NHS grassroots initiative devised and driven by new young and emergent clinical and managerial leaders from primary and secondary care across the NHS in England, who want to make this call to action the single largest simultaneous improvement event in the NHS.

It is an ambitious programme of activities aimed at galvanising and engaging the frontline in the process of improvement through individuals and teams pledging to make a change in their practice which will improve patient experience and clinical outcomes by spreading and adopting best practice and championing innovation. This will be a country wide event covering the whole of the UK and will coincide with Healthcare Innovation Expo at Excel in the same day.

The idea of NHS Change Day is create a mass movement of people working in the NHS demonstrating the difference they can make – by one simple act – and proving that large scale improvement is possible in the NHS. The aim is for 65,000 people to take part, 65 being the number of years the NHS has been in existence.

Those who wish to take part can go to the NHS Change Day website at http://www.changemodel.nhs.uk/changeday and make their pledge online, join in the discussions on the forum and become part of the growing list of active supporters and organisations taking part on the day.
LASIK Inventor Honoured by President Obama

President Barack Obama awarded LASIK eye surgery inventor Gholam Peyman, MD, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the highest honour bestowed on an American innovator, during a ceremony at the White House Friday 1st February. Dr. Peyman is a long standing member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

Peyman, a professor of Optical Sciences and Engineering at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix, is among 12 researchers to receive the honour.

When Gholam Peyman first accepted a position at the office of the University of Illinois, his office was a converted restroom,” President Obama said. “But he carved out enough space for himself, his secretary, and his lab equipment and today he is known as the father of LASIK eye surgery.

We are so grateful to all of you,” Obama said to the award winners. “The incredible contributions you’ve made have enhanced our lives in immeasurable ways that are practical but also inspirational. And so we know that you are going to continue to inspire and, in many ways, teach the next generation of inventors and scientists who will discover things that we can even dream of at this point. Thank you so much for everything that you’ve done.

“Dr. Peyman is widely acknowledged as a leading innovator in ophthalmology,” said David F. Chang, MD., President of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. “His creative research and his inventions have improved the eyesight of countless patients, and we are delighted that the President has chosen to honour this very deserving ophthalmologist.”

An ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal surgeon, Dr. Peyman has more than 135 patients. Although he is widely known for inventing the LASIK vision correction procedure, Dr. Peymans inventions cover a broad range of novel medical devices, intro-ocular drug delivery systems, surgical techniques, laser and optical instruments, and new methods for diagnosis and treatment.

I am so honoured by this award, said Dr. Peyman in a prepared statement. What a wonderful surprise. I am gratified that our work has touched so many people. We work always to enhance treatments and improve the outcomes for patients. We continue to look forward since there are many more problems to solve.

Dr. Peyman is also credited with developing the first pressure-controlled valve - now known as the Krupin valve for glaucoma surgery - and the first telescopic IOL for patients with macular disease. He was also among the first to implant an artificial silicone retina in patients with retinitis pigmentosa.

Dr. Peyman has been a pioneering force in laser and photodynamic therapy and studies on intraocular drug delivery and refractive and vitreoretinal surgery. He also established the techniques of eye-wall resection and endoresection for intraocular tumours, and was the first to perform a retinochoroidal biopsy and to transplant retinal pigment epithelial cells for age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Peymans transformative research has earned him numerous awards, including induction into the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeys Ophthalmology Hall of Fame, and the American Academy of Ophthalmologys Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Peyman also serves as an editorial board member for nine distinguished ophthalmology journals.

The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery is an international, educational society with more than 8,500 members. Its mission is to advance the art and science of ophthalmic surgery and the knowledge and skills of ophthalmic surgeons by providing clinical and practice management education and by working with patients, government, and the medical community to promote the delivery and advancement of high-quality eye care. www.ASCRS.org.

Founded in 1986, the American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators (ASOA) is the premier organization for the business side of ophthalmology. Serving physicians, administrators, managers, and practice staff, ASOAs mission is to advance the skills and professionalism of ophthalmic practice management. www.asoa.org.
World Radiography Day, a day that is dedicated to celebrating the great work done by all radiographers around the world, was celebrated this year by Radiographers at Barking Community Hospital in their new Xograph ‘BuckyStar Intuition’ Digital Radiography room.

The BuckyStar Intuition is a very lightweight system available in a single, dual and triple detector configuration with the ability to share portable detectors, including the latest Canon 9.5 megapixel CXDI-70C Wireless 35x43cm DR detector and the 6.3 megapixel CXDI-BOC Wireless 27x35cm DR detector, between multiple rooms and mobiles. The newly installed system in Barking is technologically advanced sporting an intuitive touch screen 23” user-interface, excellent ergonomics including auto-tracking to the table and DR wall stand and enhanced image quality thanks to the detectors’ 125μm pixel pitch and advanced Canon CXDI-NE image processing software algorithms.

The X-ray facilities at Barking Community Hospital are managed and operated by radiographers from King George Hospital (BHRUT), working in partnership with North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) to provide an excellent, timely, high quality service for the local population. Delighted Radiology Resource Manager, Michael Cotter, indicated huge satisfaction with the new equipment and the support offered by Xograph Healthcare throughout the project: “It is a great system, very lightweight and easy to position. Nothing was too much trouble for Xograph”.

Dhrusha Jethwa, Deputy A&E Lead Radiographer, enthused; “At King George Hospital we go out of our way to celebrate the work our radiographers have done throughout the year and to actively engage with our service users and providers. Xograph have been at the forefront of this by supplying a smooth and trouble-free system which we can fully appreciate.”

Paul Andrews, Commercial Manager at Xograph Healthcare added: “We were delighted to work with the staff from NELFT and BHRUT; the room looks fabulous and I am so pleased that we were able to combine the opening to coincide with the Trust’s World Radiography Day celebrations”.

www.xograph.com

---

Maquet and Aesculap announce sales partnership in the field of OR integration

Today, Maquet Surgical Workplaces and Aesculap announced their sales partnership. The two companies will make use of their expertise to jointly offer comprehensive OR integration solutions for endoscopy.

In today’s complex ORs, surgical teams work with equipment from a wide variety of manufacturers, all of which needs to be independently controlled and operated. Maquet has offered solutions for OR integration since 2006. From cameras and monitors to OR tables and lighting systems, Tegris OR integration allows surgical staff to operate virtually any element in the OR.

More information from the ‘product review’ page at www.otjonline.com

---

Hospira and Q Core Medical Sign International Distribution Agreement for Sapphire Infusion System

-- Device enhances Hospira portfolio with next-generation portable infusion pump technology --

Hospira, Inc. (NYSE: HSP), the world’s leading provider of injectable drugs and infusion technologies, and Q Core Medical, Ltd., an innovation leader in infusion delivery systems, recently announced that the companies have entered into a distribution agreement for the Q Core Sapphire™ multi-therapy infusion system. Through the arrangement, Hospira will have exclusive rights to market and distribute Sapphire -- a compact and lightweight infusion device system -- frequently used in ambulatory and hospital settings -- in more than 60 key markets across Europe, Asia and The Americas. The agreement also enables Hospira to collaborate with Q Core for distribution of its product development pipeline.

More information from the ‘product review’ page at www.otjonline.com

---

Orthodynamics brings the aMace®, a new standard of custom implant solutions exclusively into the UK

Orthodynamics Ltd., Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire (01 January, 2013) – specialists in orthopaedic reconstruction solutions are proud to announce the exclusive UK launch of the aMace® Acetabular Revision System, in partnership with Mobelife NV.

Sally-Anne Naunton, Head of Group Commercial Activities said, “This exciting collaboration combines the sales and clinical expertise of Orthodynamics with the technical and engineering finesse of Mobelife”.

More information from the ‘product review’ page at www.otjonline.com

---

Bravery Certificates for Young Children and Infants undergoing TIVA-TCI

Global Components Medical Ltd (GCM) is dedicated to lessen the traumatic experience involved when administering anaesthesia to children and infants. To make the whole experience less frightening, we have had a series of Bravery Certificates especially designed for infants, children and even teens.

More information from the ‘product review’ page at www.otjonline.com

---

www.OperatingTheatreJobs.com

A one-stop resource for ALL your theatre related Career opportunities
ALLEN® HUG-U-VAC®
STEEP TREND POSITIONER

Ideal for Use with Robotic Procedures

- Designed for easy forearm access to IV lines
- Patient weight capacity: 227 kg (35½ stone)
- Secure positioning in steep Trendelenburg
- Integral straps secure device to operating table rails
- Quick and easy set-up
- Disposable cover for easy clean-up
- Saves positioning time
- No continuous suction required

Safely and Comfortably Holds Patients in Steep Trendelenburg

Ideal for Use With:
- Gyneocology Procedures
- Colorectal Procedures
- Urology Procedures
- Cholecystectomies
- Robotic Surgical Procedures

For further information:
01244 660 954
www.melydmedical.com

© 2012 Allen Medical Systems, Inc. All Rights Reserved D-770691-A1
Doctors Aim To Help Stroke Patients Overcome Disability By Helping Rewire Their Brains

Researchers at the University of Glasgow are hoping to help victims of stroke to overcome physical disabilities by helping their brains to ‘rewire’ themselves.

Doctors and scientists from the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences will undertake the world’s first in-human trial of vagus nerve stimulation in stroke patients. Stroke can result in the loss of brain tissue and negatively affect various bodily functions from speech to movement, depending on the location of the stroke.

The study, which will be carried out at the Western Infirmary in Glasgow, will recruit 20 patients who suffered a stroke around six months ago and who have been left with poor arm function as a result.

Each participant will receive three one-hour sessions of intensive physiotherapy each week for six weeks to help improve their arm function.

Half of the group will also receive an implanted Vivistim device, a vagus nerve stimulator, which connects to the vagus nerve in the neck. When they are receiving physiotherapy to help improve their arm, the device will stimulate the nerve.

It is hoped that this will stimulate release of the brain’s own chemicals, called neurotransmitters, that will help the brain form new neural connections which might improve participants ability to use their arm.

Lead researcher Dr Jesse Dawson, a Stroke Specialist and Clinical Senior Lecturer in Medicine, said: “When the brain is damaged by stroke, important neural connections that control different parts of the body can be damaged which impairs function.

“Evidence from animal studies suggests that vagus nerve stimulation could cause the release of neurotransmitters which help facilitate neural plasticity and help people re-learn how to use their arms after stroke; particularly if stimulation is paired with specific tasks. A slightly different type of vagus nerve stimulation is already successfully used to manage conditions such as depression and epilepsy.

“This study is designed to provide evidence to support whether this is the case after stroke but our primary aim is to assess feasibility of vagus nerve stimulation after stroke.

“It remains to be seen how much we can improve function, but if we can help people perform even small actions again, like being able to hold a cup of tea, it would greatly improve their quality of life.”

The study is being sponsored by Dallas-based Microtransponder Inc, a medical device company that has developed the Vivistim device and has received substantial support for their work from the US National Institutes of Health. They are also exploring vagus nerve stimulation for the treatment of tinnitus.

Anyone interested in taking part in the study should contact: mvls-armweakness@glasgow.ac.uk or call 0141 211 2948.

For more information contact Stuart Forsyth in the University of Glasgow Media Relations Office on 0141 330 4831 / 07854 034 342 or email stuart.forsyth@glasgow.ac.uk

Human tissue supplier moves to dispel myths surrounding transplants

With the first UK hand transplant having taking place at the start of this year, and the news that an American soldier who lost four limbs in Iraq has had a double arm transplant, a company which supplies human tissue for surgery in hospitals across the UK has moved to dispel the myths surrounding their boundary pushing industry.

Over the years there have been a number of incidents which have generated headlines and urban myths making people wary of companies which provide human organs and tissue for donation.

With thousands of allografts carried out every year, one of the main falsehoods expounded is that the industry isn’t regulated when in fact the opposite is true. The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) is a licensed body, which works closely with all organisations that remove, store and use tissue to ensure that it is used safely, ethically and with proper consent.

Phil Davies, Managing Director of Cardiff-based Hospital Innovations, said: “The human tissue industry is highly regulated, and stringent guidelines are in place, contrary to persistent reports and accusations. The nature of this industry is such that it will always be a highly emotive subject and the HTA is in place to act as a watchdog, supporting public confidence by auditing and licensing companies that store and use human tissue.”

Hospital Innovations is a growing and reputable company, which has access to companies which use unique processes to prepare tissue for implant. The commercial benefits of using products supplied by Hospital Innovations are numerous: the choice is greater and tissue can be ordered to exact specifications, the availability is better and it helps meet the increasing patient needs.

Mr. Davies added: We often speak to people who are concerned that there is no way of knowing where the various tissues come from, both in terms of the people supplying them and the countries of origin. This is one of the fictions that we are keen to redress we can trace every piece of tissue we carry, which has been checked and monitored to ensure it is of the highest quality, back to the donor.

Ultimately, in terms of where all this tissue originates, there is no way that they can all come from the UK there simply isn’t enough to meet the demand. This is the same as the situation with the National Bone Bank which does outstanding work but is simply unable to fully meet the UK’s growing needs.

All of Hospital Innovations grafts originate, and are processed, in the USA. They come to the UK in their final sterile form.

Hospital Innovations was founded in January 2008 to deliver specialist products for use in orthopaedic and corrective surgery in an innovative and sustainable way. The Hospital Innovations product range is well established and incorporates innovative design and process to tried and tested technologies.

The major markets that Hospital Innovations operates in are hip revision, spinal surgery, restorative knee surgery and a number of innovative solutions for soft tissue damage related to the early onset osteoarthritides of the knee.

Delivered to your door every month

Subscribing to the OTJ costs £14.00 per year for delivery in the UK or £21.00 overseas. Alternatively just fill in your address details below and return with a cheque.

Name ___________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
Town County ___________________________________________
Postcode _______________Tel_____________________

Please enclose cheque made payable to “Lawrand Ltd” and return to: Lawrand Ltd PO Box 51 Pontyclun CF72 9YY
New Research Suggests Employee Health Could Be At Risk Because Of Poor Computer Use

New research from energiseYou, the UK’s leading employee health, energy and performance experts, finds the large majority of employees score just 55% on the key drivers of smart computer use. This is putting employee health at risk.

Oliver Gray, Managing Director of energiseYou, says: “With so many people failing to follow healthy computer practices, it’s no surprise that organisations experience such high musculo-skeletal related sickness absence rates.

“It is a legal requirement for organisations to carry out workstation assessments but still many employers fail to do so. Not only are these employers falling foul of the law but their people are far more likely to suffer with poor health related problems, such as back problems, repetitive strain injuries (RSI) and headaches.

“By training employees to use their computer smartly organisations have a real opportunity to reduce musculo-skeletal related sickness absence and improve the health, energy and performance of their staff.”

The research of over 2,000 employees finds:
- Just 30% say that their working environment is suitable e.g. comfortable lighting levels
- Less than half say they stretch their neck, back and shoulders at least once during the working day
- 37% suffer from tension headaches or migraines
- 66% have tension or feel pain in their neck, back and shoulders
- Only 50% take regular breaks from their computer
- Only 30% eat lunch away from their computer/desk
- Over 50% have a TV or computer/laptop in their bedroom

Gray adds, “Most people’s habits mean they are using technology non-stop from the minute they open their eyes to the minute they close them at night. This over stimulation of mind and body can drain energy and cause poor health, such as sleep problems and mental health fatigue.”

Oliver Gray is holding a free short 30-minute live webinar, on the 19 February, to help employers improve computer use in their organisation. This will help employers ensure they are complying with the Health & Safety legislation and identify ways to reduce the risk of employees developing musculo-skeletal disorders.

For more information visit: https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/787396542

Hard-Up Nurses Feeling The Pinch As ‘Right To Practise’ Fee Soars

Debt among nurses has risen by a fifth in the last year according to the Royal College of Nursing’s welfare service which is receiving a record number of appeals for help.

Nursing Standard magazine reports this week that there is widespread anger among cash-strapped staff at a nursing registration fee increase which takes effect on February 1st.

RCN senior welfare adviser Claire Cannings said nurses’ debt problems are becoming more serious. “With the pay freeze and an increase in childcare costs, the fee rise could be the straw that breaks the camel’s back.”

Mike Travis, a children’s nurse in Liverpool, said nurses were also struggling with other expenses such as uniform laundering and fees for criminal record checks.

The Nursing and Midwifery council is upping its registration fee from £76 to £100 a year.

New Brochure available on Fukuda Denshi’s Dynascope DS-7700 Central Station Monitor

Fukuda Denshi is a leading supplier of advanced patient monitoring and user-configurable clinical information management systems, and has just published a new brochure on its latest Central Station Monitor, the Dynascope DS-7700.

The full colour brochure from Fukuda Denshi details how the DS-7700 offers multiple display configurations, precise Arrhythmia analysis and maximum convenience with the aid of its bed transfer between the central stations.

In addition, the brochure details how the DS-7700 can connect up to 100 beds via a DS-LAN III network, and 16 wired/wireless beds can be monitored at any one time on each station. Additionally it offers 96 hours/32 waveforms of Full Disclosure recording utilising its 3-channel recorder, and has an in-built alarm indicator.

The DS-7700 is available in both 15in and 19in widescreen, and provides a simple touch-screen and fixed key interface making it straightforward to use and saving staff time.

The DS-7700 is an ideal Central Station Monitor for busy wards, with a small footprint and user-friendly configuration to help staff provide better care to patients.

For more information on Fukuda Denshi’s DS-7700 Central Station Monitor, telephone the company on 01483 728065.

Fukuda Denshi: Healthcare bound by technology.
West Middlesex University Hospital purchase Ziehm Solo

West Middlesex University Hospital has just purchased what could be the 1000th installed Ziehm Solo from leading independent medical equipment supplier Xograph Healthcare Ltd.

Since its launch in 2010 at the European Conference of Radiology (ECR), close to 1,000 of the highly popular Ziehm Solo general purpose mobile C-Arms have been delivered. Ziehm Imaging, The C-Arm Company, has also just announced new enhanced imaging algorithms on many units in their range. This comes in the form of two brand new features, one of which filters noise and enhances edges and another which is a specialised algorithm which minimises fan and metal artefacts in 3D reconstructions, resulting in significantly more distinguishable anatomy, well-defined bony landmarks and optimised slice views in the axial, sagittal and coronal planes.

The Ziehm Solo Mobile C-Arm delivers optimal performance for orthopaedics, urology, general surgical imaging and pacing procedures. Versatile viewing options enable the user to specify the unit according to individual requirements. Its compact design makes the Ziehm Solo first choice for small operating theatres.

Pradeep Bhakoo, Superintendent Radiographer at West Middlesex University Hospital said: “The Ziehm Solo has good, user-friendly features especially the variable pulse rate. This piece of equipment was a good choice.”

Paul Andrews, Commercial Manager at Xograph Healthcare said: “The single footprint design of the Ziehm Solo is a perfect match for the busy modern theatre environment and the additional Mobile Viewing Station will be offered an induced birth or caesarean section after 37 weeks in an attempt to reduce the risk of complications affecting the baby and the mother.

The results of the research found that in women with OC, raised levels of substances linked with pregnancy hormones interfere with FXR a protein in liver cells. The way in which FXR senses and controls bile acid levels is affected.

Professor Williamson says, Our data demonstrate that in OC, certain pregnancy hormones are abnormally raised and can interfere with liver function, giving rise to the symptoms.

By understanding how raised levels of pregnancy hormone-related substances contribute to the development of OC, a new treatment target called FXR has now been identified. It is hoped that new drugs targeting FXR could reduce the risk of complications to the baby, by lowering the levels of serum bile acids in the mother.

Co-researcher Dr Shadi Abu-Hayeh says, These data are exciting not only because they explain how pregnancy can affect the way the liver functions, but also because they identify particular liver molecules that new drugs can target for the treatment of OC.

References

Cosmetic surgeon Nick Percival volunteers his skills in India to perform life changing surgery

Mr Nick Percival FRCS who recently featured on the 2 part series on Channel 5, Bashed Up Bodies, is off to India to perform vital surgery from the goodness of his heart. The cosmetic surgeon has an extremely high level of expertise and will be using it to carry out life changing surgery for patients in need.

The voluntary trip to the Walawalkar Hospital has been organised by fellow consulting cosmetic surgeon, Shailesh Vadodaria who has been visiting India for a number of years. Shailesh has set up a cleft lip and palate surgery service in Mount Abu, North West India with some colleagues from Norway some 8 years ago and has now trained local surgeons to do the work. The unit has a reputation within India and patients even travel from the big cities to this small town for treatment.

This trip, however, to a different area, is to join a group of doctors and other health professionals who travel every year from the UK and Europe to the hospital in Dervan, a small town about 200 miles south east of Mumbai. All types of reconstructive plastic surgery will be done including hand surgery, secondary burns surgery and reconstruction following birth defects and trauma.

Vygon Launches Nautilus® Real-time Catheter Tip Location

Vygon (UK) Ltd has launched an innovative new ECG product designed to help reduce both the patients’ and clinicians’ exposure to X-ray radiation and enhance therapy. Nautilus® helps you find your way during catheter insertion by providing accurate, real-time tip location confirmation.

More information from the ‘product review’ page at www.otjonline.com
2. Organisations should ensure that CE marked Digit tourniquets which are labelled and/or brightly coloured should be used, in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions. **Surgical Gloves should not be used as tourniquets.**

**Tourni-cot™ COMPLIANT TOURNIQUETS**

Tourni-cot™ simple exsanguinating digit tourniquets are fully compliant with NHS Patient Safety Agency Rapid Response Report requirements...

- CE marked, sterile, single-use medical device manufactured according to ISO 13485
- Labelled with a safety tag
- Brightly coloured available in four sizes: Sml (18mm), Med (22mm), Lrg (26mm), XLrg (28mm)
- Latex Free

Tourni-cot™ tourniquets have been tested by NPSA and were used in the formulation of the Rapid Response Report.
Martin Gallifant Joins Genmed

Martin Gallifant has joined the Genmed Group, as Sales and Marketing Manager. Martin started his career in the British Army Laboratories as a Multidisciplinary Laboratory Technician, moving on to join Ciba Corning Diagnostics (Chiron Diagnostics) as an Application Support Specialist for Immunoassay.

He later joined the project team that introduced Chiron’s branched DNA assay to market internationally. Following the sale of Chiron he was appointed Sales Manager and European Support Manager for Visible Genetics - selling and supporting equipment for resistance mutation sequencing of HIV and HCV.

From here Martin joined Bio-Stat Diagnostic Systems where he remained for 8 years and held a number of roles as well as serving on their Senior Management Team. Most recently he joined Phadia UK Ltd where he became Northern Sales Manager and then National Sales Manager.

Martin brings a wealth of experience with him, being well versed in sales, marketing, coaching and training techniques. He has a proven ability to motivate and lead a team particularly when planning and implementing successful change. His knowledge in the areas of tenders, the preparation of business cases and strategic partnership development will be very valuable to Genmed. Martin lives with his wife and daughter in Manchester and for this national role will work from Genmed’s headquarters in London.

Robin Modak, CEO at Genmed said: “We are delighted that Martin has joined us as he brings a wealth of technical as well as commercial experience in the sectors that Genmed has chosen to make its own. Martin is one of several senior managers that have joined Genmed recently as part of our planned expansion”

www.genmed.me.uk

South London Healthcare NHS Trust to be dissolved by 1 October 2013

The most financially challenged NHS Trust in England is to be dissolved by October 2013 to address the risk it carries for ongoing patient care and the pressure it is placing on other parts of the NHS, Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt today announced.

Previous attempts to solve the financial problems at South London Healthcare NHS Trust have failed. Currently, the Trust is losing more than £1 million every week and by the end of this year, is expected to have an accumulated debt of more than £200 million money that is being taken away from patients elsewhere.

It was on the advice of NHS Medical Director Professor Bruce Keogh that Mr Hunt also announced that he has decided that it is in the best interests of patients that Lewisham Hospital should retain its A&E.

The Trust Special Administrator was appointed in July last year to recommend a lasting clinical and financial solution for South London Healthcare NHS Trust. After careful consideration the Secretary of State has accepted the broad recommendations of the report, which are:

• The Trust will be dissolved, with each of its hospitals taken over by a neighbouring hospital trust. These mergers are subject to approval from the relevant regulators.

• All three hospitals within South London Healthcare NHS Trust Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich, Queen Marys in Sidcup and the Princess Royal in Bromley will be required to make the full £74.9 million of efficiencies identified by the Trust Special Administrator.

• All vacant or poorly utilised premises will be vacated, and sold where possible.

• The Department will pay for the excess costs of the PFI buildings at the Queen Elizabeth and Princess Royal Hospitals and write off the accumulated debt of the Trust so that the new organisations are not saddled with historic debts. It will also negotiate an appropriate level of transitional funding to cover implementation.

With regard to the proposed service changes within the new merged Lewisham-Greenwich provider, the Secretary of State asked Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, Medical Director of the NHS, to consider if they would improve patient care.

On the basis of Sir Bruce’s advice, the Secretary of State has accepted the recommendation to centralise very specialist emergency care at four sites in South East London because this will significantly improve the quality of care and save the lives of up to 100 patients a year.

The Secretary of State understood the financial rationale for downgrading Lewisham A&E, but in the interests of local patients has imposed some additional clinical safeguards proposed by Sir Bruce. Lewisham Hospital will retain its ability to admit patients with less serious conditions, and will continue to have 24/7 specialist medical emergency cover, allowing it to remain open as a working A&E department treating up to 75% of the patients who currently use it.

Patients with much more serious conditions or higher risk pregnancies will be taken to Kings, Queen Elizabeth, Bromley or St Thomas because they are more likely to have a better result. To get to this higher standard of care, patients across South East London will only spend on average 2 more minutes in an ambulance to access specialist emergency services and on average 2-3 minutes in a private car or public transport to access consultant led maternity services.

With these additional safeguards in place, the Secretary of State has agreed that the Trust Special Administrator should proceed to implementation, with South London Healthcare NHS Trust expected to be dissolved between June and October 2013.

Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt said:

The longstanding problems at South London Healthcare NHS Trust must not be allowed to compromise patient care in the future. Hundreds of millions of pounds have been spent on paying for debt rather than improving patient care for the local community in South East London.

What is in the clinical interests of patients in South East London has been at the heart of my decision making process, and as a result I have followed clinical advice to keep open the A&E in Lewisham.

However, some changes need to be made so that money is spent on patient care rather than servicing historic debt. The decisions I have taken today will ensure that and that patients in South East London will be able to rely on the NHS for years to come.

Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS Medical Director said:

Healthcare in South East London is at a turning point. We need to strike the right balance between ensuring that all patients have access to the best possible specialist treatment whilst providing safe, effective and convenient services close to home.

I expect that balance to result in about three quarters of patients currently seen in Lewisham A&E continuing to receive complete care at Lewisham Hospital and about a quarter being transferred for more specialist treatment elsewhere.

Jeremy Hunt added:

I would like to thank Matthew Kershaw. He has done a truly outstanding job in incredibly difficult circumstances. He and his team have developed a set of proposals that will improve and maintain services in South East London.

Xograph Again Donates to International Charity

After an overwhelming response last year from customers and suppliers, leading independent healthcare group Xograph has once again decided to send electronic Christmas cards to all its customers, suppliers and friends.

The savings made have been donated to The Inforce Foundation – an international charity which provides the forensic expertise necessary for the scientific detection, recovery and identification of victims arising from mass fatality incidents, genocide, war crimes and similar crimes against humanity.

Peter Staff, CEO at Xograph Group said: “We are delighted to be supporting such a worthwhile cause as The Inforce Foundation — especially at this time of year — when our thoughts must go out to those who have lost loved ones in tragic circumstances.”

Mark Viner, CEO of the Inforce Foundation said, “Radiography is an increasingly important part of the forensic investigation and identification process. Inforce is privileged to be associated with Xograph and is especially grateful for this kind and generous gift to aid our work.”

www.xograph.com

When replying to this article please quote: OTJ
CME Medical Upgrades ‘E-Learning’ Programme

Optimisation of online infusion pump training to match users’ time and budget constraints

CME Medical, the UK’s fastest growing specialist infusion company, has upgraded its online training for users of its infusion pump technology. The CME Medical e-learning programme is accessed via a customer log-in training portal on the CME Medical website. It is the gateway to infusion device training, information guides and operation manuals; clinical applications and drug delivery information; plus CME Medical’s training standards and provisions. The online programme dramatically reduces the time clinical staff spend away from their patients and has been designed to mimic ‘face-to-face’, classroom-based tuition. It also complies with national standards for medical device training.

In an age of increasing workload and budget constraints, the online training programme gives its users some clear advantages over classroom-based tuition. It also complies with national standards for medical device training.

With CME Medical’s e-learning programme the emphasis in the educational process shifts from teaching to learning, using a variety of methods. The tailored learning means users can learn in ways that suit them, potentially gaining more than with conventional methods of teaching. For example, processes and procedures - key components of medical device training - are learning methods most suited to an e-learning format. The environmental impact of personnel training is also minimised by online teaching methods and is an effective way for an organisation to reduce its carbon footprint.

According to Andrew Churnside, Sales and Marketing Director at CME Medical, “Our support does not stop after infusion pump purchase. Our Clinical Support Specialists work with our customers to develop a tailor-made training plan that ensures our products deliver maximum efficiency and outstanding patient care.”

For more information, please visit the CME Medical website at www.cmemedical.co.uk.

The Central Alerting System Survey

The Central Alerting System (CAS) is a cascading system for issuing patient safety alerts, important public health messages and other safety critical information and guidance to the NHS and others, including independent providers of health and social care.

CAS is currently managed by the MHRA on behalf of the Department of Health. We have been asked to conduct a full review of this system, including its IT capabilities, with the aim of making recommendations that will improve the service it provides.

To understand what elements of the system currently work well and what improvements users would like to see, we are asking all those who receive and handle alerts to complete a survey and provide their feedback.

This survey will be available until 22 February, and the responses will be considered by a project team of those responsible for issuing CAS alerts. We would be very grateful if you could complete this survey, and bring it to the attention of any colleagues who also use this system and/or receive alerts.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CASreview

‘Why on earth not?’

At Waitemata District Health Board (WDHB), we work hard to make life better. When an idea comes up that has the potential to make a positive difference to both our patients and our people, we don’t put barriers in the way, we remove them.

Demand for our services is growing fast, so when the idea came up to fast track elective surgery, we said ‘Why not?’ When it was suggested that doing certain surgeries at the same time would help us improve our patients’ recovery, we said ‘Why not?’ When it was proposed that consistent teams with regular working hours would create better staff bonds, we said ‘Why not?’

With a state-of-the-art four theatre facility opening in mid 2013 and with a commitment to working smarter to bring about better outcomes for all, WDHB is a better place to grow your Surgical career. With the stunning beaches and proximity to New Zealand’s biggest and most vibrant city, WDHB may well offer a better way of life.

If you find yourself wondering if you should find out more, take a page from our book and ask yourself ‘why on earth not?’

We’re inviting Expressions of Interest from Nurses with surgical ward or operating theatre experience. To find out more about our ground-breaking new facility and submit your EOI, please visit http://www.wdhbcareers.co.nz/

wdhbcareers.com

New Head of Clinical Services appointed to Spire Hospital Liverpool

Spire Hospital Liverpool has appointed Louise Ferguson as their new Matron and Head of Clinical Services.

Louise, originally from Northern Ireland, spent the early years of her career working in theatre at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. She began working privately for BUPA in 2004 and progressed to join Spire Liverpool Hospital in her new senior role.

As head of clinical services, Louise provides overall clinical leadership and operational management to all clinical service areas at Spire Liverpool, incorporating the in-patient ward, day care wards, the out-patient department, the diagnostic imaging department and the physiotherapy and Perform centre.

Louise has also taken on the role of the director of infection prevention and control. She is the named nurse for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children, acts as the Caldicott Guardian as well as being the accountable officer for controlled drugs at the hospital.

Louise said: I am delighted to have joined Spire in my new role and look forward to taking on fresh challenges as part of the team in clinical services. The biggest part of my job will be to lead and implement the hospitals clinical strategy to help ensure that the hospital and staff are providing the best quality of patient focused care and personal attention for all patients. We want to make sure that Spire is the first choice in Liverpool for private healthcare.”

Spire Hospital Liverpool employs over 232 people across clinical and non-clinical roles. The hospital is one of the main private hospitals in Liverpool providing services across a number of fields such as orthopaedics, general surgery, ophthalmic, cosmetic, ENT and physiotherapy.

For more information contact Spire Hospital Liverpool on 0151 733 7123 or visit www.spirehealthcare.com
The positive impact of holidays on health has been measured in a groundbreaking study published on the 29th of January. The study, the first of its kind, set out to establish whether the much-discussed ‘feel good factor’ generated by vacations is based on physical and psychological fact.

Participants were divided into a travel group and a non-travel group and all had stress-resilience testing and a 360+ Health Assessment by Nuffield Health. This was carried out alongside psychotherapeutic tests conducted by psychotherapist Christine Webber.

The Holiday Health Experiment found that those who took part benefited from lower blood pressure, improved sleep quality and improved stress management - with the effects continuing for at least two weeks after returning home.

Highlights of the findings:

- The average blood pressure of the holidaymakers dropped by a beneficial six per cent while the average of the non-holidaymakers went up over the same period by two per cent. (Avoiding high blood pressure is important to avert risk of stroke and heart attacks).
- The sleep quality of the holidaymakers improved while that of the non-holidaymakers deteriorated. Holidaymakers saw a 17 per cent improvement while the average for non-holidaymakers reduced by 14 per cent. (Quality of sleep is important for the body to physically and mentally repair).
- The ability to recover from stress (known as the stress-resilience test) saw an average improvement of 29 per cent among holidaymakers. This compared to a 71 per cent fall in stress resilience scores among the non-holidaymakers. (The higher the stress resilience score the better the body is recovering from stress efficiently).

Dr Lucy Goundry Nuffield Health, Medical Director, Wellbeing said: “For the first time, our clinical results show how holidays helped these couples reduce their blood pressure, improve their sleep and manage their stress levels better.”

“These results clearly demonstrate that on holiday our resilience to stress (our ability to physically cope with stress) improves. Becoming more resilient to stress is hugely important as most of us will return back to stress when our holiday ends but being more resilient to it helps lay the foundations for improved productivity at work, better energy levels and ultimately happiness.”

“As many as a third of workers do not take their full holiday entitlement each year - I urge everyone to ensure they plan their holidays carefully, working hard is important but so is taking time to rest and recuperate.”

The Holiday Health Experiment also found:

1. Decreases in blood glucose levels, reducing risk of diabetes
2. Improved body shape (losing weight around their middles) which may lower risk of heart disease and diabetes
3. Improved energy levels and mood

The 12 participants in the experiment were divided into two groups. Both groups underwent a 360+ health assessment, wore heart monitors to measure their sleep patterns and resilience to stress, had psychotherapeutic tests and were given dietary and lifestyle advice in summer 2012.

Six participants in one group were then sent on a holiday for two weeks to Thailand, Peru or the Maldives. The other six people stayed at home and continued working.

In September 2012, all participants underwent a second array of clinical and psychological tests and wore heart monitors for 72 hours.

Psychotherapist Christine Webber said: “The Holiday Health Experiment has shown me more clearly than ever before just how much our mental health can improve when we get away on holiday. It’s apparent from our results that the majority of people feel happier, more rested and much less stressed because our ability to physically cope with stress (our stress resilience score) improves. Becoming more resilient to stress is hugely important as most of us will return back to stress when our holiday ends but being more resilient to it helps lay the foundations for improved productivity at work, better energy levels and ultimately happiness.”

“All in all, I think the Holiday Health Experiment has shown us that there are quantifiable health benefits to taking breaks away - and that we may just have scratched the tip of the iceberg in terms of what the long-term benefits of holidays may be.”

Derek Jones, Kuoni managing director said: “This study backs up with evidence the long-held belief that holidays are good for our health. I hope people will acknowledge not only a boost to their productivity, but to their longevity from taking full annual leave, preferably peppered throughout the year. Saying you’re too busy to take your full entitlement could be counterproductive. Regular holidays can be counted as preventive medicine.”

www.OperatingTheatreJobs.com
A one-stop resource for all your theatre related Career opportunities

View the latest vacancies online!
THEATRE STAFF WANTED for New Zealand

Do YOU or any of YOUR friends or colleagues who are Operating Department Practitioners/ Anaesthetic Technicians or Theatre Nurses want to hear more about working in New Zealand?

We will be interviewing in the UK in March 2013 (or phone or skype interviews throughout the year)

Email or phone us with your details now!
Ask us about our refer a friend bonus for your colleagues

UK to NZ Free-phone 0808 23 444 68
EMAIL: info@accent.net.nz
Skype: accent.prudence
Or UK text to cell 07796 266 962

Leadership self-development tool gains popularity

(See below for quote from GP Penny Newman)

A tool designed to develop the leadership skills of healthcare professionals has been downloaded more than 50,000 times since its launch in October 2011.

The NHS Leadership Academys Self Assessment Tool aims to help clinicians and healthcare staff at all levels to independently and confidentially identify their leadership strengths and weaknesses.

After completing a quick and easy scenario-based questionnaire, the tool instantly generates feedback on where the users leadership competencies lie. Development advice is also offered, which is based on the Leadership Framework the nationally recognised benchmark for effective leadership in healthcare.

The tool, which is available free of charge, consists of a series of multiple choice questions based on leadership qualities, such as working with others, improving services and setting direction.

After completing the questions, users can choose to generate an action plan to develop their skills and are also given access to a range of materials, such as free e-learning modules, to support their skills development.

The offline resource is based on the Leadership Framework, which describes the leadership qualities healthcare professionals need in order to become more actively involved in the planning, delivery and transformation of health services.

There are three versions of the Self Assessment Tool - the full Leadership Framework, medical and clinical versions. All are available to download on the NHS Leadership Academy website at www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk/self-assessment-tools

Dr Penny Newman, GP, and Consultant in Public Health and Primary Care Advisor for NHS Midlands and East, has used the medical version of the Self Assessment Tool in her leadership development. She commented:

“Now more than ever, the NHS and patients need doctors who embrace leadership and who can identify their learning needs against nationally recognised standards. This easy-to-use resource enables users to independently see how their leadership skills fare, and where they can benefit from development.

Its a great starting point for anyone interested in leadership and may also help with reflection for appraisal and revalidation purposes”.

About the Leadership Framework

The Leadership Framework (LF) provides a consistent approach to leadership development for all staff in health and care irrespective of discipline, role, function or seniority, and represents the standard for leadership behaviours that all staff should aspire to.

The LF is based on a model of leadership that is often described as shared or distributed leadership, and is especially appropriate where tasks are more complex and highly interdependent as in healthcare.

For more information about the Leadership Framework visit: www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk/LF

Fuerteventura Apartments
Your ideal base for that self-planned holiday

www.fuerteventura-apartments.net

Sun, Beaches, Golf, Hiking, Countless Water Sports

Something for Everyone

Winter or Summer.

Now from £150 per week !!
Your first choice in anaesthesia and airway management

Quality, innovation and choice

www.intersurgical.co.uk

@intersurgical  intersurgical