

In brief

Cancer Nursing Practice is recruiting clinical, research and educational reviewers. Reviewers are asked to evaluate and suggest improvements for articles. They may also be asked to write book reviews. Contact helen.hyland@rcnpublishing.co.uk

Nurses new to clinical research posts or seeking a refresher can apply to take part in a two-day course on the management of clinical studies in Leeds on June 17-18. The closing date for applications is May 12. For a form, email crncc.training@nih.ac.uk

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has published an evidence update on preventing harmful drinking. While it does not provide formal recommendations, it highlights new evidence for consideration. To download a copy, go to tinyurl.com/n45clfz

Leadership scholarships are available, supported by the Teenage Cancer Trust and funded by the Raisa Gorbachev Foundation, for nurses working in the specialty. The closing date for applications is September 24. Full details are at tinyurl.com/FNFleadscholars

Results from many clinical trials are not published or made available, according to a briefing from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. See tinyurl.com/q9cgw7s

Nurses are invited to send in abstracts of their work for poster presentations at Teenagers and Young Adults with Cancer's 10th Anniversary Conference on September 30. The deadline is June 10. Go to tinyurl.com/luc16x8

Registration for MASCC-ISOO 2014 is now open. The symposium on supportive care in cancer takes place on June 26-28 in Miami, Florida. See www.mascc.org/symposium

Prostate cancer services brought to rural areas thanks to the ManVan

MEN AFFECTED by prostate or testicular cancer in remote areas of Wales are being supported by nurses travelling in an American-style motorhome.

The ManVan, funded by the Movember campaign and supported by Prostate Cancer UK and cancer charity Tenovus, brings services to men in rural areas.

Tenovus nurse adviser Peter Gill has 25 years' experience of supporting those with the disease. He said: 'On board the ManVan, I will help teach other health professionals about prostate and testicular cancer, sexuality and erectile dysfunction.'

Staff on the van also offer one-to-one and couples' counselling, group support and advice on benefits.

Prostate Cancer UK director of services Heather Blake said: 'We know from the Welsh cancer patient experience survey that access

to key workers or advice in the community continues to be patchy. Broadening access to these kinds of services is important if we are to help more men have a better quality of life in the future.'

There are 2,600 diagnoses of prostate or testicular cancer each year in Wales, with prostate cancer incidence 25% higher than in the overall UK population.



The ManVan is funded by the Movember campaign

More staging data from London will enable better variation analysis

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS has been made in cancer staging data collection across parts of London since 2011, according to a report by the London Cancer Alliance (LCA).

The LCA, a partnership of 16 NHS providers across west and south London, has published an annual report for 2013/14 showing a 45% increase in robust cancer staging data collection. The data, which capture severity, location and spread of cancer among the patient population, enable comparative analyses to be undertaken on variation in outcomes by tumour type, geographical area, age and sex across the capital.

Historically, the alliance says, the data across London have been of poor quality. LCA chair Neil Goodwin said: 'I am delighted at the significant progress that has been made as a result of the commitment shown by clinicians, managers and other healthcare professionals.'

The alliance has also developed guidance on the main features of a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) job description and a framework for CNS

development. In addition, documents have been published on standardised chemotherapy nurse training and competency assessment of chemotherapy administration.

i Find out more

The London Cancer Alliance Annual Report 2013/14 is available at tinyurl.com/ommvlaw

NMC prepares to update prescribing guidance in bid to reduce FtP cases

THE NURSING and Midwifery Council (NMC) is updating its guidance on prescribing and managing medicines in an effort to curb the number of fitness to practise (FtP) referrals.

In 2011/12, the NMC received 454 referrals for prescribing and drug administration, accounting for about 10% of all referrals.

Birmingham City University professor of prescribing and medicines management Matt Griffiths said guidance is needed because nurses' roles have diversified so much.

The new guidance is expected to come into force early next year.