

## **Press Release** (For Release 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011)

### **Pay and conditions for nurses in general practice fall further behind the NHS**

A recent salary survey for nurses in general practice by [www.practicenursing.co.uk](http://www.practicenursing.co.uk) indicates that few general practices are embracing Agenda for Change (AfC). Based on pay and holiday entitlement only 2% of practices provide the same pay and conditions as received by nurses working for the NHS.

The subjective comments in the survey indicate widespread frustration with the lack of adoption of Agenda for Change in general practice. 70% of the nurses in the survey received less holiday entitlement than a newly qualified nurse in the NHS.

Bernie Campbell of [practicenursing.co.uk](http://www.practicenursing.co.uk) said

“It is clear from the survey that most general practices are ignoring Agenda for Change. The gap in pay and conditions between general practice and the NHS continues to widen. With a population of very experienced nurses in general practice, many nearing retirement this represents a problem for government and practices alike. Our survey allows nurses to understand how their pay compares and provides practices the ability to review the pay of their nursing team.”

#### **Notes for editors**

##### **Survey**

560 surveys were completed between October and December 2010 with pay for nurses ranging from £7.88 to £32 per hour. The average pay in the survey was £15.72 up 1.2% from 2010. A pay estimator is provided on [www.practicenursing.co.uk/salary/reviewinfo.aspx](http://www.practicenursing.co.uk/salary/reviewinfo.aspx) to help practices review the pay for their nursing team using the survey data. The survey report is available at <http://www.practicenursing.co.uk/salary>

##### **Agenda for Change**

The Agenda for Change (AfC) is the NHS pay and career structure negotiated between UK health departments, the NHS Confederation and health service unions. Negotiations on the proposals began in 1999 when the health departments of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales published a document called Agenda for Change. This document highlighted the need for changes to pay, career structure and conditions of employment within the NHS. The RCN has expressed the view that practice nurses and nurse practitioners employed by GPs should be paid at AfC rates of pay.

[www.practicenursing.co.uk](http://www.practicenursing.co.uk) is the largest on-line community of nurses working in UK general practice. It has over 14000 registered members. The website acts as a daily meeting place for practice nurses who often work alone or in very small teams. The website provides a forum, job page, medical supplies finder, real time chat, book club and a document/link depository.

[www.practicenursing.co.uk](http://www.practicenursing.co.uk) is part of a family of medical collaboration and e-learning websites including [www.gppracticemanager.co.uk](http://www.gppracticemanager.co.uk), [www.nurseprescriberforum.co.uk](http://www.nurseprescriberforum.co.uk), [www.nursingforum.co.uk](http://www.nursingforum.co.uk) [www.meetandlearn.co.uk](http://www.meetandlearn.co.uk)

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