Should we stay or should we go?

As nurses, we’re used to being asked questions we can’t possibly answer: ‘When will I get better?’, ‘How long will these drugs take to work?’, ‘Will I be able to get a GP appointment in the next millennia?’ The European Union referendum, however, has taken this phenomenon to a whole new level.

From a nursing perspective, whether it would be better for us to remain in the EU or vote to leave is one of those subjects that throws up more questions than answers. If we vote to leave, does it mean that all the nurses from the EU who currently work in the NHS will wake up on the morning of Friday 24 June as illegal immigrants? On the other hand, if we stay do we have to accept that a high proportion of our nursing workforce will always be recruited from abroad? In this issue of JCN, Alex Munro, looks at the EU referendum vote from the perspective of a nurse who has yet to decide (‘Should we stay or should we go... what would Brexit mean for nurses?’, p. 16), and tries to shed some light on one of the biggest votes in our recent history.

As well as the small matter of whether we decide to alter the make-up of the EU on Thursday 23 June, this issue also looks at the ‘friends and family’ initiative, which is a way of helping us better listen to patients and their families who can often feel neglected in such a huge organisation like the NHS (p. 10). We also take a sideways look at dementia services in the UK and ask whether confusion over symptoms is harming diagnosis (p. 8)?

As always, we have tried to bring you clinical content that advances your practice. In this issue, we investigate the best evidence for treating heel pressure injuries (p. 54); the optimum methods for applying soap substitutes, bath additives and leave-on emollients (p. 29); and how to improve nutrition in nursing homes; while this issue’s Learning Zone looks at how to set up a unique outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) service (p. 66).

Finally, don’t forget to check out our sister journal, the Journal of General Practice Nursing (read it for free at www.journalofpracticenursing.co.uk), which provides must-read clinical content for practice nurses and, together with JCN, means that we’ve got the community covered.

Jason Beckford-Ball, editor, JCN

If you would like to comment on any of the articles in JCN, or indeed have ideas of your own for an article, please contact jason@jcn.co.uk

Pictures on front cover courtesy of: Savannah1969; Alexander Raths; Dml5050; Dvkorn; John Keith; Elena Elisseeva; all at Dreamstime.com
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As a community-based dermatology specialist nurse I see first-hand the importance of maintaining skin integrity. From the young to the elderly, loss of skin hydration and integrity forms the basis of many skin problems, from infection to other acute and chronic skin conditions. I am delighted to be part of a journal highlighting best practice in skin care, wound management and all the associated issues.

Sara Burr

As a senior nurse researcher, I am passionate about the translation of research into practice to ensure that patients receive quality evidence-based care. I am delighted to be a part of the JCN editorial board because the journal helps to bridge the research-practice gap in community care. JCN is a well-recognised and established journal that keeps clinicians abreast of policy, practice and research in community care.

Janelle Yorke

As an advanced practitioner and co-founder of Hallam Medical I have been heavily involved in leading the way regarding recruitment best practice and nurse revalidation in the UK, providing training, support, and mentorship for nurses. I have designed admission avoidance services and advised on successful pilot schemes. I am passionate about promoting the roles of nurses and advanced practice within community services. The JCN is a perfect fit as we have the same vision and values. I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experience as a member of the editorial board.

Alex Munro

I want to highlight the benefits of social media tools such as Twitter, which provide great opportunities to network, share evidence-based practice and influence the direction of community nursing. Select carefully the individuals and organisations you wish to follow and your twitter feed will be full of useful bite-size information. You can also instigate chats using #districtnursing where practitioners across the UK share discussions. Please access the NMC guidance on the use of social media before you begin, but I encourage you to start tweeting @heatherbain9.

Heather Bain
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