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**Circulation to:**

LMC  
CCG Chairs  
CCG Executive Nurses  
Practice Managers

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Training and development for practice nursing**

We are writing to inform you about plans for training and development of nurses in general practice in the North East. This work is part of the national Community Nursing Strategy and is led by NHS England and Health Education England, working closely with the CCG Executive Nurses and existing Practice Nurse Links.

With an increasing emphasis on moving care away from secondary care and closer to the patient's home, the provision of a skilled practice nursing workforce is more important than ever. However, recent modelling in parts of the North suggests that there will be a dwindling practice nurse workforce at a time when the need in general practices is growing.

Health Education North East is reviewing the model for commissioning continuous professional development, and will consider the needs of general practice nurses as part of this work. The review will also include analysis of the current workforce and their training and professional development needs. This work will play an important part in ensuring that general practices have access to a large enough pool of skilled practice nurses in future.

In the short term, Health Education North East has identified funding to support the practice nursing workforce, and has asked the universities of Northumbria and Teesside to review existing provision relevant to practice nursing skills and knowledge, and undertake a scoping exercise to ensure we have a clear picture of the current and future workforce development needs of the practice nursing workforce.

Together we are developing a new structure for training and development, and

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improved professional nursing links. This includes working with the universities to encourage more student nurses to consider practice nursing as a career option, through an increased focus on community and practice nursing in the pre-registration curriculum. Individual practices can play an important part in this work by offering placements for student nurses.

In addition, local networks for practice nurses have now been established both in Cumbria, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear and Durham, Darlington and Tees areas. This follows a regional event last year which received positive feedback from members. The networks will meet twice a year, providing support with areas like professional nursing development and NMC re-registration. We would be grateful if you can support members of your nursing team to attend wherever possible.

If you would like further information on this programme of work please contact:

**Alison Smith**  
**Deputy Director Nursing / Patient Experience**

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Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team

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Alison Smith and Karen Giles have met recently with Dr John McMichael and Dr John Canning and Janice Foster from the LMCs to discuss these plans.

We very much hope that these initiatives will benefit both your practice nursing teams and ultimately your patients, and that you will be able to support our work as it develops.

Yours sincerely,



Bev Reilly  
Director of Nursing & Quality  
Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team



Karen Giles  
Director of Education  
Health Education North East