

HEALTH AND SPORT COMMITTEE

HEALTH HAZARDS IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT

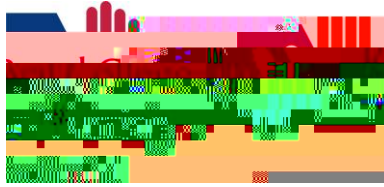
March 2019

Background

The Royal College of Nursing is actively involved in infection prevention issues and practice to support improvements in nursing and patient outcomes across the UK. Activity takes place on a national, regional and local level, ranging from representation at national forums to meetings, stakeholder events, education provision and site visits to members' workplaces. RCN safety representatives represent the health and safety interests of members at work and work jointly with employers, to ensure compliance with relevant health and safety legislation.

What is the scale of health problems acquired from the healthcare environment in Scotland?

doctors patients, visitors and all(ng)-7()6torsHNHS, 11.04ce



to do what is necessary to ensure the welfare of patients. If this means ordering a ward to be cleaned out with the normal cleaning schedule, for example, or for environmental safety issues to be immediately addressed, then the SCN should have confidence in the reporting systems to raise any environmental issues and for the issue to be dealt with quickly and effectively. The move to make the SCN non caseload holding in the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Bill is a key lever to ensure SCNs have time and authority to do so.

If you require any further information please contact Rachel MacBeath at rachel.macbeath@rcn.org.uk

*NHS Scotland assets and facilities 2017: annual report published Oct 2018