## STAGE 2 PROCEEDINGS: HEALTH AND CARE (STAFFING) (SCOTLAND) BILL

The RCN welcomes many of the amendments lodged ahead of stage 2, which it feels would improve and strengthen the Bill. In particular, the shift to a multidisciplinary focus is welcome.

Ahead of the publication of the Bill, the RCN set out six key tests which the legislation should meet if it is to have a positive impact on patients and staff in practice. A number of amendments lodged for stage 2 would, if agreed to, mean that the six tests (set out below) would be reflected in legislation. Many of the amendments would also address areas of concern which the RCN expressed at stage 1.

**Positive outcomes:** Positive outcomes for people and staff must be at the heart of decision making. A number of amendments in the name of Alex Cole Hamilton MSP are relevant:

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A strong professional voice: Nursing leaders, whether at a ward, team or governance level, should be able to exercise their professional judgement about whether there are the right number of nursing staff with the right knowledge, skills and experience, in the right place and at the right time.

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Amendment 91 seeks to ensure that noncaseload holding status of senior charge nurse, and their equivalents in community teams. These senior nurses are integral to the daily delivery of safe care and successful implementation of this legislation. They must be given the time they need to fulfil their clinical leadership



For more information: