



Response



performance and ethics for nurses and midwives. The Royal College therefore had concerns that Registered Nurses already accountable to the NMC would be required to register twice or hold an unnecessary license. We are pleased that the Bill addresses this issue by including Registered Nurses in the list of exemptions for this requirement.

6) Provision of toilets

The RCN is supportive of placing duty on local authorities to develop a strategy for the provision of and access to toilets for public use in their area. Accessible public toilets are a necessity to maintain population health for everyone, and in particular certain groups with specific needs, for instance disabled people, pregnant women, parents with babies and children, older people and those with specific health conditions.

7) Improving public health at a community level

Nurses and health care support workers employed by GPs and in a variety of other settings provide well established, valued and effective clinical services in primary care. The Royal College of Nursing is concerned that this has not been recognised in this Bill. Public Health nurses play a key role in health protection activity. Nurses delivering primary care services will usually be employed by the GP but could also be employed by the LHB or an alternative provider such as a community pharmacy or Public Health Wales.

8) Developing the nursing profession in primary care is a clear opportunity to improve access for patients. Nurses are in an ideal position to influence the people they interact with be it in primary prevention, secondary prevention or in teaching the promotion of self-care and management. It is vital though that all nurses and midwives promote every encounter with their patients as a public health encounter. If we are to close the gap in health inequalities and the burden of avoidable ill health then we must harness the full potential of the nursing workforce.

About the Royal College of Nursing

430,000 nurses, midwives, health visitors and nursing students, including over 25,000 members in Wales. The majority of RCN members work in the NHS with around a quarter working in the independent sector. The RCN works locally, nationally and internationally to promote standards of care and the interests of patients and nurses, and of nursing as a profession. The RCN is a UK-wide organisation, with its own National Boards for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The RCN is a major contributor to nursing practice, standards of care, and public policy as it affects health and nursing. The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice