

Ways of improving the uptake of general practice nurse education

- Work with primary care trusts (PCTs) to establish courses relevant to their local service needs and those of central government policy, such as long-term conditions
- Work alongside nursing hierarchy within PCTs and practice nurse (PN) facilitators to determine learning needs of specific groups of general practice nurses (GPNs) and tailor courses to fit these needs
- Invest in advertisement of courses using a forum that will reach all GPNs (ie through the PCT GPN professional lead or via practice managers etc)
- Using roadshows, you could advertise courses and modules you have on offer that are linked to general practice nursing. You could hold these roadshows at PN conferences and also at GPN forums or other GPN meeting places. You could liaise with the local PN facilitator or professional head of nursing in the PCT to organise the venues
- Link with labour management committees regarding the design and development of courses, which would also provide links to multi-professional education
- Work with deaneries to link into GP training programmes and to find out what seminars are around that GPNs can access for their own training needs. It would also be a chance to identify common areas of teaching
- Find out where the local GPN forums are run and who leads them; ask to attend the meetings to publicise the available relevant courses and to hear directly the sort of education provision that is required
- Arrange to visit the local GPN forums annually with a questionnaire about what GPNs would find useful in terms of their educational development
- Gain access to e-mail lists for GPNs; this may be done via the Head of Nursing or professional leads within the PCT
- Link courses to the *Quality and Outcomes Framework*¹ and show the relevance to service outcomes and service improvement
- Link courses to the *NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework*² in order to encourage movement up through the gateways into improved banding
- Work with education commissioners for common educational frameworks to be developed to ensure consistency and common professional standards across the country

References

1. Department of Health. *Quality and Outcomes Framework*. London: Department of Health; 2004. Available at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/08/86/93/04088693.pdf>.
1. Department of Health. *The NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework*. London: Department of Health; 2004. Available at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/09/08/61/04090861.pdf>.