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Citation: Craig, Stephen (2011) Minor Surgery - The Nurse role. In: 26th APAO Congress, 20-24 March 2011, Sydney.

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# Minor Surgery – The Nurse Role

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APAOSydney2011  
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA  
20-24 MARCH 2011

Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress



# History

- Lewin Report (1970)
  - Operating Department Assistant
- Cumberlege Report (1986)
  - Nurse Practitioners
- Bevan Report (1989)
  - Multi-Skilled Theatre Practitioners

# Nursing History

- The NMC Scope of Practice (1994)
- RCS Assistants in Surgical Practice (1999)
- The NHS Plan (2000)
- RCS Delivering High Quality Surgical Services for the Future (2006)
- The Code: Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics for Nurses and Midwives (2008)

# Scope of Professional Practice

- Launched in 1992
- Detailed how nurses could 'advance roles'
- Didn't say how!
- Opportunities!!!!!!

# Professional Code of Conduct

- Launched in 1992 (revised 2004)
- Purpose is to inform the professions of the standards of professional conduct required of them in the exercise of their professional accountability and practice
- 8 standards

# Professional Code of Conduct

- Standard Four (7 subsections)
- As a registered nurse, midwife or specialist community public health nurse, you must co-operate with others in the team.

# Professional Code of Conduct

- Standard Six (5 subsections).
- As a registered nurse, midwife or specialist community public health nurse, you must maintain your professional knowledge and competence.



# What Does This Mean?

- Differing institutions interpreted the way forward differently.
- Differing levels of ‘advanced roles.’
- Advanced roles still not concretely described by the UK nursing governing body.
- No transferability.

# An Approach to Setting Up A Service

- Search Governing Body Guidelines
- Trust Agreement
- Legal (Trust) Advice
- Protocols
- Supervising Consultant Ophthalmologist
- Personal Indemnity Insurance

# In the Beginning

- Direct Consultant Ophthalmologist Supervision
- December 2002
- Chalazions
- Ziess
- Molls
- Papilloma

# Recently

- No direct supervision
- Direct referral from GP's & other practitioners
- Biopsies
- Electrolysis
- Cryotherapy
- Everting Sutures
- 1,2 & 3 Snips
- Punctal Caутery / Plugs
- Sebaceous Cysts
- Corneal Suture Removal
- Xanthelasma
- And Under Supervision...
- Upper Lid Blepharoplasties
- Lateral Wedge Resections

# Service Impact

- Minor OP waiting list less than 4 weeks
- Theatre time / lists freed
- Consultants can consult
- Increased capacity

# Benefits

- Patients seen appropriately
- Minor OP waiting list less than 4 weeks
- Seamless patient care
- Theatre time / lists freed

# Benefits

- Consultants free to 'consult'
- One point of contact & information
- Reflexive change in management & trends
- Increased capacity

# Financial Impact

- First appointment costs on average £156. (AU\$ 249)
- NHS Tarrif (2010) Minor Op £586. (AU\$ 938)
- Follow up appointments average at £76. (AU\$ 122)
- $£156 + 586 + 76 = £818$  (AU\$ 1309)



# Back to the Drawing Board



“The challenge is how to free you from old professional turf wars, how to liberate you from the remnants of the old ways of thinking. The answer I think is to encourage a new generation of entrepreneurial nurses. Nurse prescribing sends a powerful message to the public and others that nursing is not subservient to medicine but an equal part of the healthcare team....  
...let's have more nurses employing more doctors.”

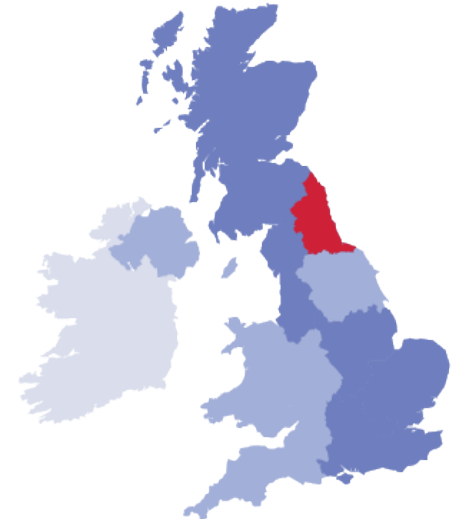
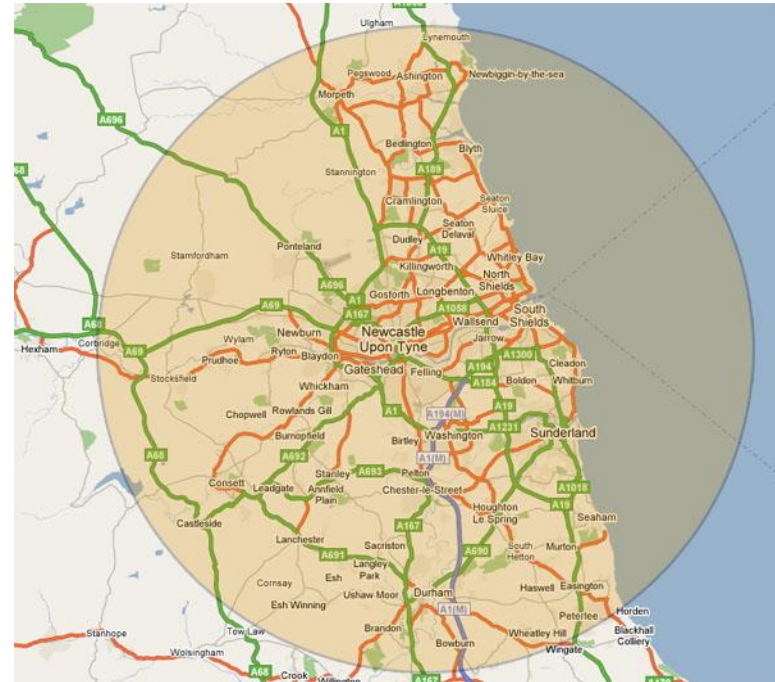
John Reid (then Health Secretary)  
at Chief Nursing Officer's Conference Nov 2003

# The Old Days



# Minor Ops Now

- Formation of Private Company
- Contracts with BUPA & Nuffield
- NHS 'Choose & Book' Account
- PCT Contracts
- Surgery carried out in PCT inspected and registered clinics / optometrists
- Effective Alternative to Hospital Treatment



# Guidelines

- The NMC Code of Professional Conduct: Standards for Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2004)
- NMC PREP Handbook (2004)
- NMC Standards for supporting learning and assessment in practice (2006)
- RCS 'Delivering a high-quality surgical services for the future' (2006)
- NMC advice sheet on Accountability
- NMC advice sheet on Advertising and sponsorship
- NMC advice sheet on Gifts and gratuities
- Department of Health (England) [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)
- Community and District Nurses Association [www.cdna-online.org.uk](http://www.cdna-online.org.uk)
- Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association [www.amicus-cphva.org](http://www.amicus-cphva.org)
- Royal College of Nursing [www.rcn.org.uk](http://www.rcn.org.uk)
- Commission for Social Care Inspection [www.csci.org.uk](http://www.csci.org.uk)
- Medical Defence Union

# Further Information



INFORMATION FOR NURSES

## Information for would-be nurse entrepreneurs

*Turning initiative into independence*

- Royal College of Nursing (2003)

“Information for would be nurse entrepreneurs: Turning initiative into independence”

# Thank You



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