

HRI Ltd Newsletter

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Only 11 weeks until the end of 2006, can you believe it? The year has flown by and HRI Ltd has recently celebrated its 2nd birthday! We hope that this newsletter will have something in it that is of interest to you. Please let us know your comments and feedback and get in touch any time for an update or to let us know of anything that's new with you.

NMC announces its position on overseas nurses

The Summer newsletter mentioned that junior nurses have been removed from the Healthcare Shortage Professions list. The Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) have issued a position statement regarding overseas nurses (trained outside the EEA) which offers advice to those looking for supervised placements and also those contemplating coming to the UK to do the Overseas Nursing Programme (ONP). The NMC is obliged to consider all applications for registration equally but would like to ask all nurses contemplating it to carefully consider the following:

- a) Are you sure that you qualify for registration with the NMC?
- b) Do you fully understand the registration process and its implications?
- c) Do you understand the current difficulties in gaining a place on an ONP?
- d) Do you understand the new situation regarding overseas-trained nurses who fall outside the categories mentioned in the new shortage occupation list?
- e) Are you fully aware of the difficulties in securing employment in the UK in the current, highly competitive employment market?
- f) Do you understand that the NMC charges an administrative fee to assess applications for the ONP? This fee – which is currently £140 - is non-refundable.
- g) Do you understand that funding yourself through an ONP training course is an expensive undertaking and it does not guarantee a work permit or secure employment in the UK?

Those who will not be affected are band 7 & 8 registered nurses, registered nurses working in the specialities of audiology, sleep/respiratory physiology, neuro and cardiac physiology, theatre, clinical radiology, pathology, critical care and midwives.

For more information on how this might affect you, please get in touch with Helen on: helenw@hriconsult.com or go to: <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=2208> where you can read the article in full.

New Independent Treatment Centres to open around the UK

These privately funded and run treatment centres are a government initiative to help relieve pressure on NHS waiting lists for elective procedures and they are springing up all over the country. They have large staffing requirements and due to legislation aimed at preventing the 'poaching' of NHS staff from hospitals, are not permitted to recruit workers who have been employed by the NHS within 6 months. This is a great opportunity for overseas trained allied health professionals to get a foot in the door to the UK healthcare system. At the moment, we are looking for diagnostic radiographers with HPC registration so if you know of any who are interested in working in the UK, please ask them to get in contact with us. We will keep you updated as to other requirements that may arise over the coming months.

Health news

On the 12th of October it was announced that the UK is the fattest place in Europe! This bombshell is causing some dismay around the country, especially in a place called Boston in Lincolnshire which has the dubious honour of having the most obese residents in the fattest nation. Those of us who live in London are feeling rather smug however as we score quite far down the scale. There is a distinct North/South health divide emerging with more large people tending to live in the northern part of the country and the rather alarming prediction is that 13 million British people will be obese by 2010. As well as the obesity, northerners have more likelihood of dying of cancer, heart disease, smoking-related diseases and to top it all off, a lower life expectancy too. The Government is doing its bit to educate people about



the dangers of sitting around all day eating junk food but is wary of accusations of being a 'nanny state' and getting too involved in peoples' freedom of choice.

However, there has been something of a lunchtime revolution in schools in the last few months with a campaign spearheaded by TV chef, Jamie Oliver to radically update and improve the humble school dinner, traditionally consisting of stodge and chips with not a fresh vegetable in sight. This change has been strenuously resisted in some parts of the country, notably in Rotherham (you guessed it, it's in the north) where mothers have set up a scheme whereby they take the orders of children suffering under the healthy new regime and bring them back their hearts' desire in the form of fish & chips, which are then passed through the school fence! Education and prevention seem to be the answer with government and healthcare institutions united, for once, in the resolution that the Great British public needs to start taking some personal responsibility for its own health and wellbeing. In a few years' time this should have the result of saving the NHS massive amounts of money as 'lifestyle' complaints such as diabetes, heart disease, smoking-related illnesses and obesity are significantly reduced.

The Channel Islands

The main inhabited Channel Islands comprise Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm. They sit off the Normandy coast of France and have the advantage of slightly higher temperatures than mainland England. The islands have an interesting history, having been annexed by the Duchy of Normandy then passing to English control after William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066. Although the islands are crown dependencies of Great Britain, Jersey and Guernsey have been self-governing bailiwicks since the 13th century and are not members of the European Union, though Islanders are full British citizens. Charles II was exiled to Jersey during the English Civil war and Victor Hugo also spent many years on both Jersey and Guernsey during the reign of Napoleon III, of whose government he was extremely scathing in print, resulting in his exile from France for 19 years in total. The Channel Islands were the only part of the British Isles to be occupied by the Germans during World War 2 and Islanders suffered many privations as a result.

Guernsey is the second largest island in the group and administers all the smaller islands except for Jersey. Guernsey is an idyllic place with golden beaches and an enviable lifestyle where the emphasis is very firmly on achieving a work/life balance. There is not the same pressure on healthcare workers as in the UK so time can be taken to support newly qualified staff. Also, as it is not part of the NHS the same budgetary constraints do not apply which means there is plenty of good quality equipment and all the facilities are well maintained. There is an onsite Institute of Health Studies which is affiliated to Sheffield University and the organisation is very supportive of training and development.

Guernsey is always on the lookout for staff with good experience and excellent English language and communication skills so if you fancy the island life, let us know and we will advise you how we can help.

Next featured area: Next featured area: London in the Winter issue

Check out our website at: www.hospitalrecruitment.com

