

ICM Nurses Poll - December 1999

Since the 1997 General Election, do you think the changes in the NHS have led to improvements in patient care, deterioration, or made no difference? Base: All respondents

Improvements (+1)	18%
Deteriorated (-1)	25%
Made no difference (0)	51%
Don't know	5%

Which, if any, of the following do you think should be made available to everyone on the NHS free of charge? Base: All respondents

Nursing care for the elderly	98%
HIV/AIDS combination drug therapies	97%
Drugs to prevent breast cancer	95%
Termination of pregnancy	64%
Viagra	30%
Sex change operations	28%
None of these	1%

Which, if any, of the following do you think should be made available to everyone on the NHS free of charge? Base: All respondents - Viagra

Yes	30%
No	61%
Don't know	9%

Nursing care for the elderly

Yes	98%
No	1%
Don't know	1%

Termination of pregnancy

Yes	64%
No	20%
Don't know	16%

Sex change operations

Yes	28%
No	55%

Don't know	17%
Drugs to prevent breast cancer	
Yes	95%
No	3%
Don't know	2%
HIV/AIDS combination drug therapies	
Yes	97%
No	1%
Don't know	2%

Do you think each of the following developments are positive or negative? (Positive mentions) Base: All respondents	
Walk-in health centres	86%
Primary care groups	86%
Nurse consultants	81%
NHS Direct	73%
None of these	1%

Do you think each of the following developments are positive or negative? Base: All respondents - Nurse consultants	
Positive	81%
Negative	10%
Don't know	8%
NHS Direct	
Positive	73%
Negative	11%
Don't know	15%
Walk-in health centres	
Positive	86%
Negative	7%
Don't know	7%
Primary care groups	
Positive	86%
Negative	6%
Don't know	9%

In your opinion, is there a shortage of staff in your work place or not? Base: All respondents

Yes	77%
No	22%
Don't know	1%

In your workplace, do staff shortages put patients at risk or not? Base: All respondents who think they are short staffed

Yes	63%
No	36%
Don't know	1%

Have you witnessed patients receiving poor nursing care in the last year? Base: All respondents

Yes	37%
No	61%
Don't know	1%

How many times over the year have you seen patients receiving poor nursing care? Base: All respondents who have seen patients receiving poor nursing care

Once this year	7%
A few times this year	65%
A few times this month	20%
A few times this week	6%
Don't know	3%

Which one of the following statements best describes the main cause of poor nursing care you witnessed? Base: All respondents who have seen patients receiving poor nursing care

Lack of qualified nursing staff	41%
Nurses spending too much time on administration	25%
Newly qualified staff without the right skills	13%
Inadequate care by unqualified staff	8%
Nurse too busy with medical task	6%
Don't know	7%

Do you believe that nurses are more willing or less willing to

report poor practice than they were five years ago? Base: All respondents

More willing	66%
No difference	11%
Less willing	17%
Don't know	6%

How would you describe morale among the nurses you work with? Base: All respondents

Very high (5)	6%
Good (4)	26%
Fair (3)	31%
Low (2)	26%
Very low (1)	12%

In the last year, have you considered leaving nursing or not? Base: All respondents

Yes	51%
No	48%

If your child wanted to be a nurse, would encourage or discourage them? Base: All respondents

Encourage	34%
Discourage	55%
Don't know	9%

If you started over again, would you go into nursing or not? Base: All respondents

Yes	52%
No	44%
Don't know	4%

Financially, are you better off under the present government, worse off or has there been no change from before? Base: All respondents

Better off	23%
Worse off	11%
No change	60%
Don't know	5%

Do you supplement your income by doing bank or agency

work? Base: All respondents	
Yes	40%
No	60%

Has the use of bank or agency staff in your work place ever led to a situation you felt was unsafe? Base: All respondents	
Yes	37%
No	49%
Bank or agency staff never used	12%
Don't know	1%

Are nurses from overseas employed in your workplace? Base: All respondents	
Yes	30%
No	69%
Don't know	1%

Has the employment of overseas nurses ever led to a situation where you felt unsafe? Base: All respondents who have overseas staff employed at their workplace	
Yes	17%
No	76%
Don't know	7%

Have you ever suffered discrimination at work because of any of the following? Base: All respondents	
Gender	7%
Race	6%
Age	6%
Sexual orientation	1%
Disability	1%
None of these	84%

Have you ever suffered discrimination at work because of any of the following? Base: All respondents - Age	
Yes	6%
No	94%
Don't know	1%
Race	
Yes	6%

No	93%
Don't know	*
Gender	
Yes	7%
No	92%
Don't know	1%
Disability	
Yes	1%
No	99%
Sexual orientation	
Yes	1%
No	98%
Don't know	*

Over the past year, have you suffered verbal abuse at work? Base: All respondents	
Yes	71%
No	29%
Don't know	*

Over the past year, have you suffered physical abuse at work? Base: All respondents	
Yes	31%
No	68%
Don't know	1%

Since the election, has the power and status of doctors in your workplace increased, decreased or stayed the same? Base: All respondents	
Increased	8%
Decreased	10%
Stayed about the same	78%
Don't know	4%

Since the election, has the power and status of nurses in your workplace increased, decreased or stayed the same? Base: All respondents	
Increased	26%
Decreased	8%

Stayed about the same	63%
Don't know	3%

Do you think the nurse's right to refuse to assist with termination of pregnancy should be extended to any of the following? Base: All respondents - Electro convulsive therapy (ECT)

Yes	68%
No	21%
Don't know	10%

Prolongation of life

Yes	60%
No	27%
Don't know	13%

Withdrawal of feeding

Yes	59%
No	29%
Don't know	12%

Do you think nursing students should be NHS employees from day one of their training or not? Base: All respondents

Yes	78%
No	17%
Don't know	5%

Do you think that the education of nurses strikes the right balance between theory and practice or not? Base: All respondents

Yes	12%
No	84%
Don't know	4%

Do you think that PREP has improved standards of care? Base: All respondents

Yes	54%
No	42%
Don't know	4%

Do you have effective clinical nursing leaders in your workplace or not? Base: All respondents

Yes	68%
No	28%
Don't know	4%

Do you think the nursing profession has effective national leaders or not? Base: All respondents

Yes	36%
No	51%
Don't know	12%