

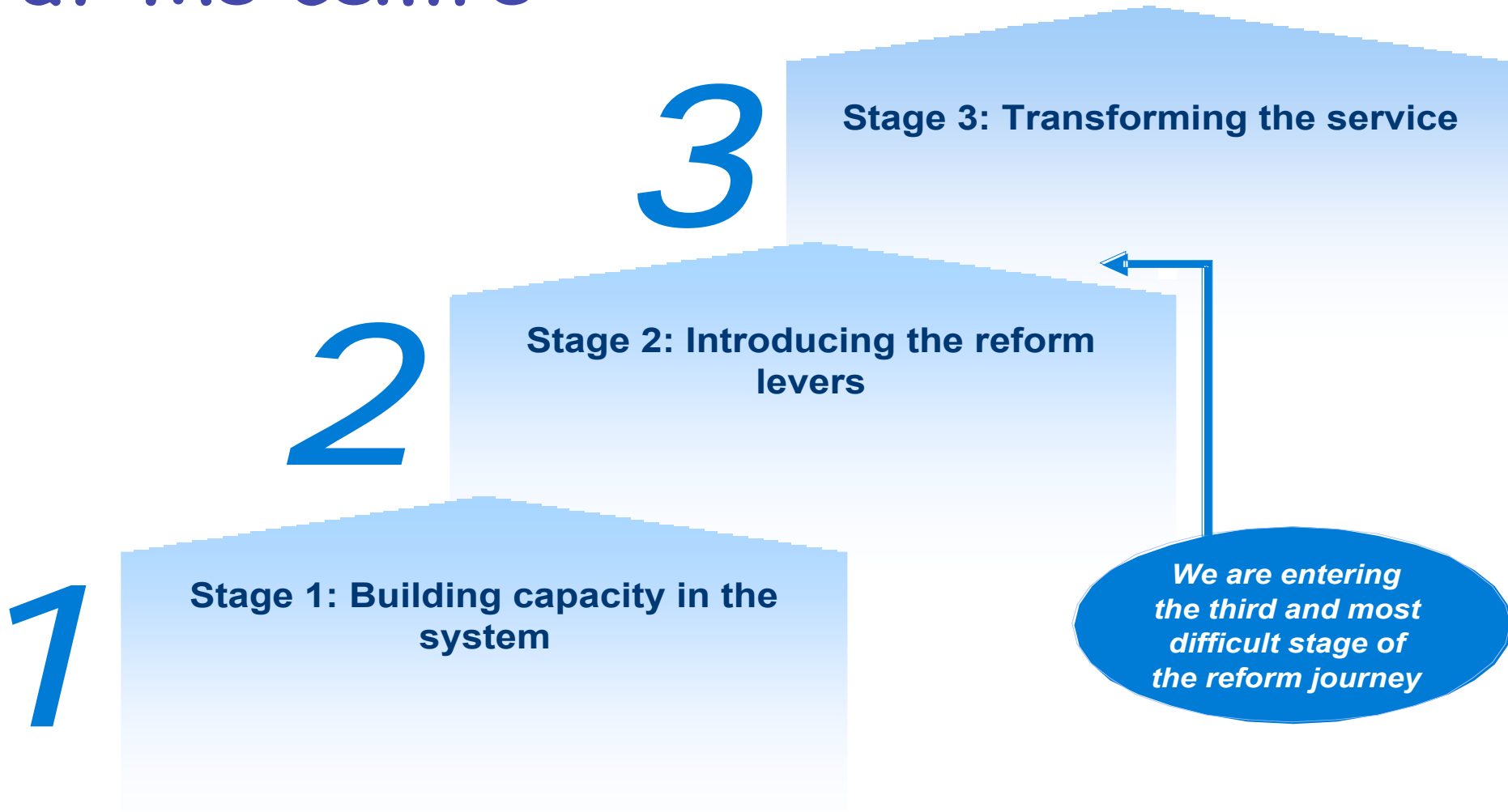
6th Nurse Prescribing
Conference
28th January 2009

Dame Christine Beasley
Chief Nursing Officer
Department of Health

Main Themes

- The context in which we are working
- How nurse prescribing contributes to improving quality
- How patients are benefiting
- The story so far
- Empowering nurses to use their prescribing competence

Third Stage of Reform - transforming services to place quality at the centre



A High Quality Care for All

'helping local patients, staff and the public make changes they need and want from their local NHS'

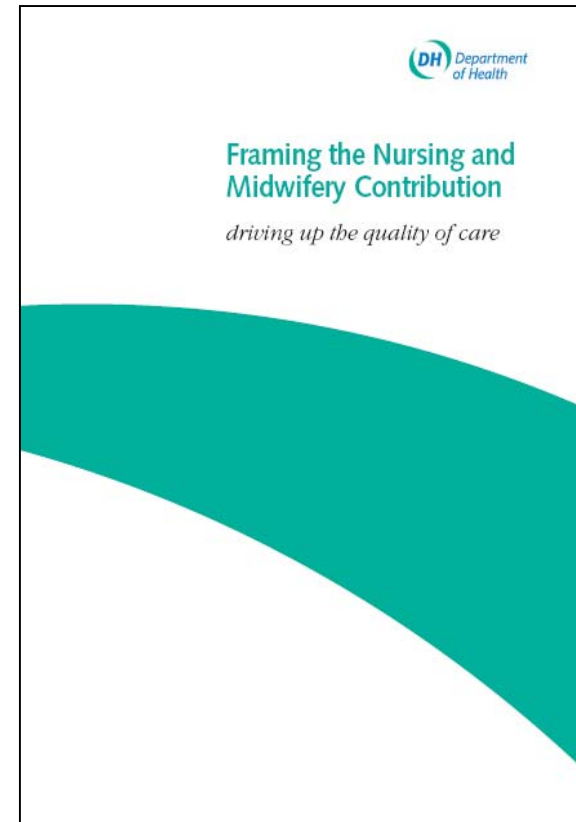
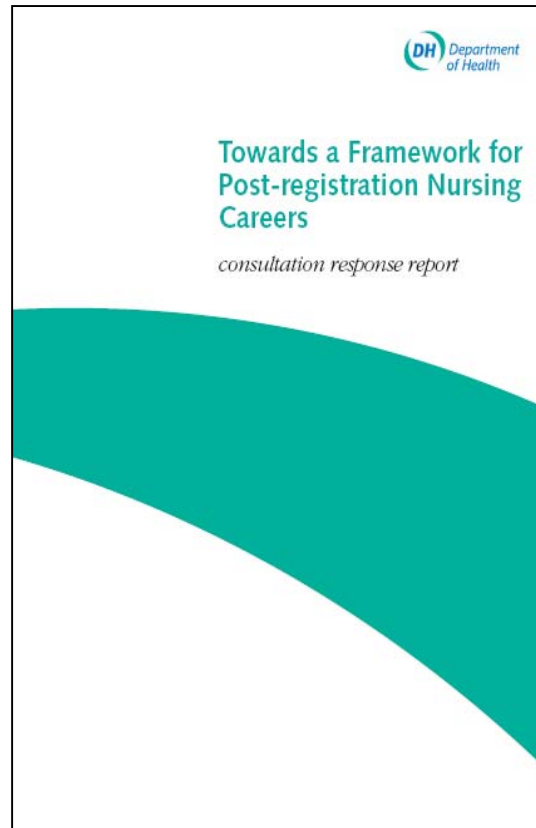
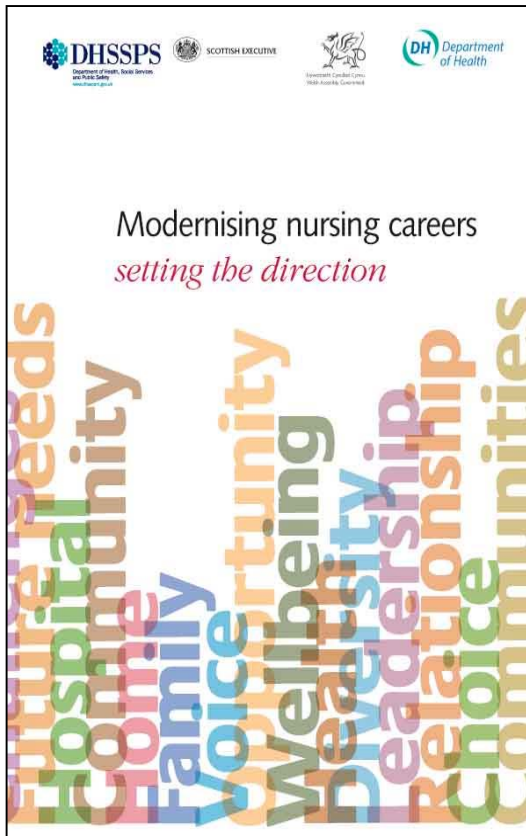
Sets out an agenda to put 'Quality at the Heart of All We Do'

We are asked to consider quality from the perspective of our patients

3 dimensions that matter to them

- o Safety
- o effectiveness
- o experience

The stage has already been set for nursing and midwifery...



Nurse prescribing contributing to raising quality

Effectiveness

- completing episodes of care
- developing and enhancing skills to meet patient need
- taking responsibility and being accountable

Patient experience

- better access, more capacity
- less waiting
- nurse prescribers seen as more approachable

Safety

- fewer professionals involved in care delivery reduces errors
- reduction in doctors signing scripts for patients they have not seen

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS:
Using healthcare professionals to deliver organisational improvements

DH Department of Health

Nurse independent prescribing in secondary care accident and emergency

Policy drivers: Four-hour maximum wait in accident and emergency, increasing capacity and efficiency. EU Working Time Directive. *The NHS in England: The Operating Framework 2008/09* – *Vital Signs:* staff job satisfaction, patients' experience.

Accident and emergency (A&E) departments across the country see huge numbers of patients on a daily basis with conditions ranging from minor illness and injury to major and life-threatening disease or trauma. The ability to manage this workload to maximum efficiency requires the judicious use of professional time and skills, and the development of staff to extend their scope of practice.

Emergency nurse practitioners (ENPs) in King's Lynn form part of the A&E multidisciplinary team for around 50% of the 24-hour, 365-days-a-year service provided. The trust hopes that further training and development could lead to an ENP presence at all times. Attendances at the department in 2006/07 reached over 50,000, of which over 4,000 (8.4%) patient episodes of care were handled entirely by an ENP.

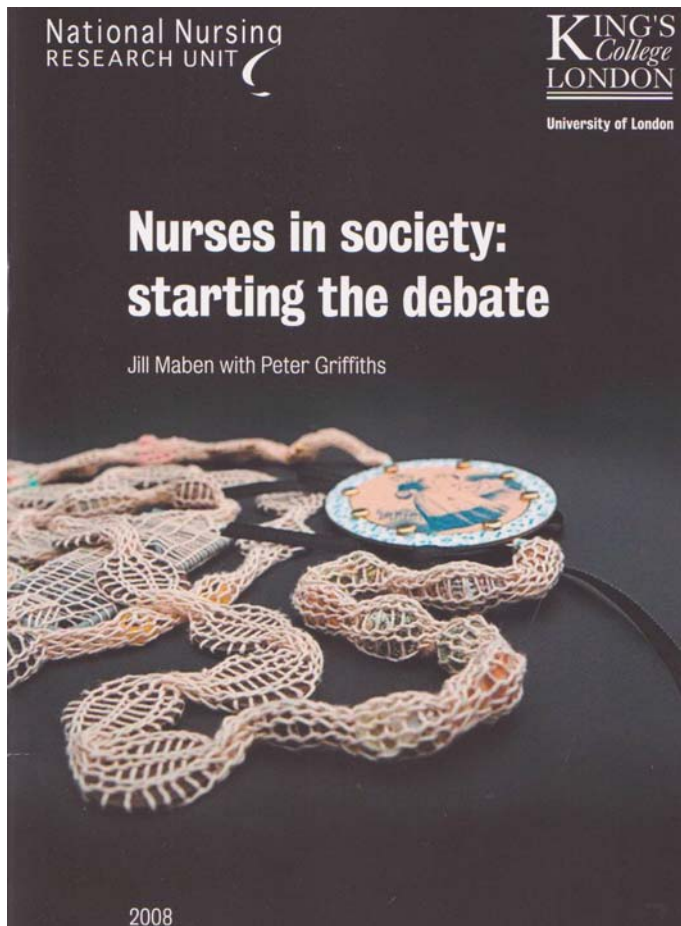
As a qualified nurse independent prescriber, Chris can deal with conditions such as pain relief, allergy and minor infections without the need to liaise with a doctor – saving time for doctor, nurse and patient. This, in turn, increases departmental capacity and efficiency, and reduces waiting times. Patients benefit too, by spending less time waiting for a prescription for the...

Chris Rumble
Emergency Nurse Practitioner
Queen Elizabeth Hospital,
King's Lynn
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The Story So Far

- Over 13,000 nurse independent prescribers
- Recent survey shows 87% actively prescribing
- Sheffield University's evaluation on Supplementary Prescribing [Oct 2008]
 - Positive patient experiences
 - Well accepted by patients and doctors
 - SP seen as useful for introducing nurses to prescribing
 - Training viewed as positive
 - Learning in practice & support from medical mentor appreciated
 - Drs saw benefits for themselves & patients
 - Increased autonomy & more job satisfaction for nurses
 - Analysis of 71 prescribed medicines - no errors and only 3 inappropriate prescriptions eg using branded or more expensive medicines
 - Clinical management plans not always in place [but nurses qualified as independent prescribers]
- Southampton currently evaluating independent prescribing - interim report to DH end February - early signs promising
- CDs - permission granted to enable them to be prescribed by nurse - but - still awaiting Home Office to change legislation
- Mixing medicines - MHRA consultation on amending legislation to enable nurse prescribers to mix medicines where this represents accepted good practice
- Meanwhile MHRA has stated that they will not take action on breaches of the legislation where the prescriber is engaging in long-standing and accepted practice

Empowering Nurses to Utilise Their Prescribing Competence



- Latest paper to acknowledge power of nurses to influence quality of patient care
- Calls for a new vision of nursing as
 - advocates
 - champions
 - guardians of quality
- Prescription pad is a potent symbol of ability of nurses to extend their skills to enhance quality of patient care
- Structural barriers eliminated - cultural change will follow
- Now time to releasing nurses' entrepreneurial spirit to make a reality of quality at the heart of all we do

Dr John English - consultant dermatologist

'It is great to see the specialist nurses independently prescribing. Over the past few years in Nottingham we have had several nurses undertake the prescribing course who are now putting theory into practice. It means that doctors in our department are no longer required to personally prescribe every single item for patient care, which allows us all to work more efficiently. The nurses manage patients independently and use our skills appropriately, based on their clinical and theoretical knowledge'