

to the DASH's *NEONATAL AND PAEDIATRIC*
the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

New skill mix calculator helps measure needs of children on wards

AN ELECTRONIC version of the PANDA tool has been launched at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH). PANDA, the paediatric acuity and nursing dependency assessment tool, was originally developed four and a half years ago by the hospital to measure the dependency needs of children on the wards and calculate the numbers of staff needed. The paper version has been used in many UK hospitals.

The new version, which has been in operation for two months, also allows staff to calculate the skill mix needed to staff wards and track the charging for individual patients.

Director of nursing and workforce development at GOSH, Judith Ellis, said: 'It is much slicker. Staff here love the IT solution. It is much better for inter-rater reliability and for analysts.' About 80 representatives from UK children's units and one from Italy attended a presentation on the tool at the hospital.

ONE OF the UK's leading children's hospitals has invited paediatric risk managers from around England to share what they have learned from the accidental death of a premature baby.

Poppy Davies, born three months early on Christmas Eve 2008, died following a massive overdose of glucose on February 1 at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) for Children NHS Trust, London, an inquest heard last month. An internal investigation by the trust found that the incident occurred due to human error. 'Competent, caring and qualified staff made a mistake', the report said, but 'the equipment used was not sufficient safeguard given that mistake had been made'.

The cause of the incident was linked to the arrangement of intravenous (IV) equipment and, since the baby's death, an alert was sent to all clinical staff reminding them to be aware of the risks associated with this type of equipment.

A trust statement explained: 'Although this type of pump could be used safely, we have, for a variety of reasons, bought a significant number of additional IV pumps.'

The trust has since revised policies and procedures relating to IV fluids, and an audit of compliance is being carried out. The clinical governance and safety team at GOSH contacted all paediatric risk managers in the country to

to view the consultation, which runs until January 15 2010.

Sex education classes are being made compulsory in schools in England from 2011. Schools secretary Ed Balls has said that, under government plans to reduce teenage pregnancy, pupils from the age of five will be given classes in sex and relationships. Parents will be able to keep children out of classes only on moral and religious grounds until the children turn 15.

The RCN student bus has begun a six-month tour of UK universities and hospitals. The bus, a carbon-neutral double-decker, is equipped with a seminar room, cybercafe, and a publication room to provide study help and support for student and healthcare assistant members. To find out the dates and times of the tour, visit www.rcn.org.uk/studentbus