



[Inside this issue] DEC/JAN_05/06

FEATURES >>> LEGAL >>> DILEMMA >>> NEWS >>> RESEARCH >>> BRIEFING >>> DIARY

03 LEADER

Hitting back Domestic violence costs employers at least £1.3 billion in sickness absence and lost productivity – is there a role for OH?

04 NEWS

... enforcement down – latest HSE stats show enforcement notices down 37% on 2002–03 levels ... bill fails to stub out smoking at work – government's Health Bill published ... strategy for working age health – government announces new national director for occupational health ... spotlight on health benefits of REACH – EU chemicals policy should cut asthma and dermatitis ... Ireland acts on drug testing at work – Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 now in force ... retail violence – physical and verbal abuse continues to rise ... job prospects poor for obese – results of a survey of HR professionals ... troubles spark compensation claim – police in Northern Ireland lodge claims for psychiatric injuries ... award for back pain intervention ... true cost of alcohol at work ... bullying at work still rife, says survey

10 LEGAL NEWS

... working hours and stress – Mark Hone v Six Continents Retail Ltd ... impairment without a cause – Wallace Millar v an order and judgment of the Employment Appeal Tribunal

11 FEATURE

Disaster response

One year on from the Indian Ocean tsunami, Eileen Cahill-Canning looks back on the role that occupational health professionals played in supporting UK police officers and staff in the disaster response.

15 FEATURE

Screening for health at work

General health screening has come under fire from some within the medical profession who claim that certain tests can do more harm than good. But can health screening offer value for money in the workplace? Nicola Godwin investigates.

20

SPECIAL REPORT

Cutting dermatitis

Up to 40% of hairdressers are reported to experience hand dermatitis. John Ballard investigates the causes, talks to industry and clinical experts and explains how a simple task, hair washing, could be ending the careers of many trainee and junior professionals.

27

FEATURE

Evidence-based occupational health – part 2

In the second of her series on evidence-based occupational health, Ira Madan explains the process underpinning the development of national OH guidelines.

30

DILEMMA

Fast tracking in the NHS

Priority access to healthcare for NHS employees may accelerate their return to work, but is it justified? Two OH professionals, Christine Hunter and Steve Deacon, argue their points of view.

32

EXPERT WITNESS

The law at work

OH professionals need to keep up to date with developments in health and safety, disability and employment law. However, the sources of law are not always straightforward. Diana Kloss explains.

34

RESEARCH DIGEST

... job strain slows return to work ... electrical insensitivity ... hazardous drugs ... early retirement

36

LETTERS & DIARY

... dyslexia and the DDA ... key events in occupational health

37

TOOLBOX

... accidents and ill health data, guidance and consultations

39

BRIEFING

... your need to know guide to this issue