



[Inside this issue] APRIL/MAY_06

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

- 03 LEADER**
Single Equality Act The government intends introducing a Single Equality Act to replace all current and forthcoming discrimination and equality legislation, but will the benefits outweigh the costs?
- 04 NEWS**
 ... connected to health ... MPs vote to stub out smoking ... violent attacks on nurses rise ... OH outsourcing spreads ... BT bans smoking in vans ... long hours prevail ... GPs face random drug testing ... SMEs given noise warning ... NIOSH commits cash to workplace violence research ... coroner rejects evidence of workplace bullying ... egg-pack firm admits safety cracks ... massive fine for radiation breach ... IIAC rejects voice loss
- 09 LEGAL NEWS**
 ... inadequate risk assessment led to employee's injuries – Denton Hall Legal Services v Fifield ... struck off for breach of confidentiality – NMC misconduct hearing
- 10 FEATURE**
Third-party contract delivery
 Paul Suff talks to Atos Origin, occupational health service provider to the Royal Mail. Second of a two-part feature on outsourcing.
- 13 FEATURE**
Delivering OH services – part 2
 John Ballard presents the findings of extensive research on occupational health service delivery, OH nursing competences, professional support and development opportunities. This two-part feature concludes by looking at generic nursing skills and OH performance indicators.
- 22 Legal update**
 OH at Work provides a comprehensive guide to recent, scheduled and expected changes to the law, codes of practice and official guidance in occupational health and safety, disability and professional registration.
- 36 DILEMMA**
Call-centre nurses
 OH providers are increasingly offering OH management to employers through remote, telephone-based services, but is vital information being lost in the absence of a face-to-face consultation? Ingolv Urnes and Kate Kyne present their different points of view.
- 38 EXPERT WITNESS**
Occupational health experts
 OH professionals may be called as witnesses of fact or as expert witnesses in tribunal and court proceedings. Diana Kloss describes the different roles and explains why the Access to Medical Reports Act does not apply to a report produced as medical evidence where there is no clinical relationship.
- 40 RESEARCH DIGEST**
 ... burnout predicts sickness absence ... dermatitis – the impact of childhood eczema on future working life ... hairdressers' reproductive health ... burnout in mental health social workers ... tobacco firm knew air filtration was ineffective – British Medical Journal reveals telling documents... search strategies ... construction risks ... sexual harassment leads to poor health in cabin crew
- 44 BOOKSHELF & DIARY**
 ... healthy workplaces ... key events in occupational health
- 45 TOOLBOX**
 ... roundup of regulatory changes, guidance, campaigns and consultations ... smoke-free work ... firms 'unprepared' for avian flu ... asbestos risks remain ... post-graduate courses ... health and safety drive in manufacturing ... worker involvement ... kitchen handling
- 47 BRIEFING**
 ... your need-to-know guide to this issue