



[Inside this issue] AUG/SEPT_09

FEATURES ▶▶ SURVEY ▶▶ LEGAL ▶▶ DILEMMA ▶▶ NEWS ▶▶ RESEARCH ▶▶ EXPERT WITNESS ▶▶

- 03 LEADER**
Regulation and accreditation The FOM's proposal for the accreditation of OH services is welcome, but can a voluntary scheme raise standards across the sector?
- 04 NEWS**
 ... national standards for OH services ... Plans for new 'fit' note unveiled ... most doctors' rotas comply with Working Time Directive ... MPs demand more H&S controls ... asbestos prosecution ... workplace fatalities at all-time low ... new HSE strategy ... Boorman review of the health of the NHS workforce ... playing the flu game ... NICE guidance on mental wellbeing ... mental health support
- 09 LEGAL NEWS**
 ... House of Lords widens meaning of disability ... holiday pay for long-term sickness absence ... High Court rejects legal challenge to guidance on myalgic encephalitis
- 12 SURVEY**
Professional practice: Part 3 – return to work
 John Ballard reveals the latest findings from our survey on professional practice. The final part of his analysis focuses on return to work and job retention.
- 20 FEATURE**
Work-related stress
 Research by the Institute for Employment Studies for the HSE has examined how employers have been implementing the Management Standards for Work-related Stress. Andrea Broughton and Claire Tyers present their findings.
- 23 SURVEY**
Money, money, money – the pay of OH&S professionals
OH at Work's third pay, benefits and professional development survey has attracted responses from 237 OH nurses, occupational physicians and health and safety practitioners. Paul Suff analyses the results and reports on financial rewards.
- 29 FEATURE**
Remote case management
 Ingolv Urnes takes a look at the future and argues that technological innovation will see more OH services delivered remotely, resulting in less travelling and administration, and better information governance and quality control.
- 32 DILEMMA**
Randomised, controlled and relevant?
 Simon Pickvance, from the Sheffield Occupational Health Advisory Service, and the former director of clinical standards at NHS Plus, Ira Madan, debate whether recent evidence-based guidelines effectively reflect the realities of OH practice.
- 34 EXPERT WITNESS**
Pre-employment questionnaires revisited
OH at Work's legal expert Diana Kloss examines the recent case of *Cheltenham Borough Council v Laird* and its implications for pre-employment questionnaires.
- 36 DIARY/BOOKSHELF**
 ... biomechanical risks ... safety representatives and OH
- 37 RESEARCH DIGEST**
 ... upper limb disorders ... occupational asthma ... glutaraldehyde substitute has its own risks ... low back pain interventions ... hand injuries and return to work ... French experience of psychological stress ... self-assessed work-relatedness
- 40 RESEARCH PLUS**
 Our compendium of published evidence on occupational health.
- 42 CLASSIFIEDS**
 ... MSc in Workplace Health
- 43 BRIEFING**
 ... your need-to-know guide to this issue