
Miscellany

Alzheimer's charity welcomes introduction of carers' act but warns of lack of resources for carers of people with CJD

Carers now have a statutory right to have their needs assessed by local authorities when they apply for services to help look after a loved one. But the Alzheimer's Disease Society warns that new demands on community care provision, such as a large number of people with Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD), could put intolerable strain on an already overburdened system. The society represents the families of people with CJD, a rare form of dementia, through the CJD Support Network. For further information contact Veronica Fuller, Press Officer, on 0171 306 0813.

SANELINE's second opinion service

SANELINE is a national telephone helpline committed to providing accurate and up-to-date information to enable callers to develop informed options for action and to offer emotional support to people suffering from mental illness, their families, friends and interested professionals. SANELINE has a panel of psychiatrists willing to give a free second opinion to callers when all other avenues have failed. Initial contact is usually between the SANELINE coordinator and the psychiatrist to ascertain whether the request is appropriate. If it is then the caller and the psychiatrist are put in touch.

If any psychiatrist would like to volunteer to join the panel and assist with this extremely valuable service, SANELINE would be very pleased to hear from them. Call Judy Wilson at SANELINE on (0171) 724 6570. The helpline

numbers are (0345) 67 8000 out of London and (0171) 724 8000 in the London area.

New publications

Report on the Working Party on Children's Evidence has recently been published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and is available for £5.00 by mail order (please quote CR44). Further information: Kerstin Sayoud, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG (Telephone: 0171 235 2351, ext. 146).

Promoting Clinical Effectiveness: a Framework for Action in and through the NHS. This NHS Executive report was published in February 1996 and identifies areas where the NHSE will be seeking the views of the NHS about possible new initiatives and developments in clinical effectiveness. The report describes work already undertaken (e.g. provision of information on effective clinical practices, clinical audit, guidelines, education) and outlines issues that need to be addressed nationally and locally. The report contains a section on milestones to be achieved, and a very useful list of contacts and information sources. Further information: Department of Health, Storage and Despatch, PO Box 410, Wetherby, LS23 7LN. (Information on the College's Clinical Practice Guidelines Programme and CRU initiatives in this area can be obtained from: Rachel Ishak, CRU Administrator (general enquiries); Claire Palmer, Clinical Practice Guidelines Facilitator (guidelines enquiries); Tel: 0171 235 2351; e-mail: 100347.1145@CompuServe.com.)