NURSING’S NEW TV ICON

NURSE JACKIE: an audacious addict with busy ethics or a smart, skilled and subversive nursing anti-hero? The new black comedy drama series that cloaked American nursing this year has hit our screens on Tuesday nights starring Edie Falco, who last played a nurse wife in Six Feet Under, as an emergency nurse with a bad back, pain-killer addiction and her own idiosyncratic moral compass.

Nursing Review asked emergency nurse practitioner Michael Ganesh and former emergency nurse leader and Lankelly for their take on Nurse Jackie (see page 9).

So far Nurse Jackie appears to have terrorism and maintained Keri nurses rather than prompted the abuse and claimed from some US nursing circles. In fact, the New York State Nurses Association warned a disclaimer placed on the cover of the show telling viewers that Nurse Jackie was an “aberration.” In a letter to broadcasting authorities, the association’s president, Tina Gervasi, said the public’s view of nurses was influenced by television. “Jackie” had “no quarts about repeatedly violating the nursing code of ethics.” And the National Federation of Nurses president said the show’s portrayal of the nurse was part of a “sickening” trend.

COUNCIL DEFERS DECISION ON RN SCOPE

RN DECISION-MAKING ON extended changes to the registered nurse scope has come to a halt after the Nursing Council found no clear direction from the sector. As Nursing Review went to press, Nursing Council chief executive Carolyn Reid announced that the council was unable to make a decision after analysing and discussing the 104 submissions to its May consultation document on how to handle extended practice.

The consultation was prompted by the council’s growing concern that some nurses were carrying out extended practice roles, such as first surgical assistants, outside the current scope of practice, public safety and liability implications.

Others in the sector believe the council’s interpretation was too restrictive and the profession was capable of setting appropriate Accreditation Standards for extended practice.

Paul Doris, the council’s professional standards manager, said the council decided to take more time to consider the issues and would talk to its stakeholders before taking the issue back to the council table in early 2010.

Chief nurse Mark Jones said the issue was coming to the sector and it was a big opportunity for the nursing sector to come together and give a common, united response to the council.

He said if the, council was not given a clear steer, its decision was to go for the safer option of creating an additional scope for extended practice or have a council-run authorisation process.

“If our profession were to agree that doesn’t happen it (the council) would need to be assured that there’s an airflow nursing position on something different-College of Nurses executive director Jenny Caney said the college and New Zealand Nurses Organisation were already in agreement and she was not sure where the different stands had come from. But moving to the ethical and professional services manager said the major nursing groups already had a

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