



October 2017

Dear Chief Executive

It has recently been brought to our attention that several trusts throughout the UK have requested specialist nurses to spend some time contributing towards general nursing ward duties. This includes heart failure specialist nurses.

Heart failure specialist nurses are a precious resource and have contributed positively to the care (and more importantly the prognosis) of patients with heart failure over the past 15 years in the UK (www.ucl.ac.uk/nicor/audits/heartfailure; www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/QS9). We need more nurses to impact on the care and outcomes of patients with heart failure. Moreover, later this year a best practice tariff for heart failure is being introduced (www.improvement.nhs.uk/uploads/documents/BPT_Additional_Information) which will lead to financial incentives/penalties for trusts depending on their performance.

The BSH is strongly opposed to heart failure nurses being taken away from their important and evidence based duties in clinic and also treating in patients on the ward. So much positive improvement has been made in the outcomes of heart failure patients and we feel these proposals by trusts will have a negative impact on our patients' quality of life and prognosis.

If you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact the Society.

Yours faithfully

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(Chair)**

**Dr Simon Williams
(Deputy Chair)**

on behalf of the **British Society for Heart Failure (BSH)**

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