



14/02/2014 Innovation and Improvement Bulletin

This bulletin includes research which focuses on improving and developing services to improve the patient journey and make services more effective and efficient. It also includes information on service evaluations and future challenges for services that need to be considered in planning.

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General Practice

GP Personal Medical Services review

NHS England published [the arrangements](#) it will apply to ensure the most effective use of resources for Personal Medical Services (PMS). PMS is a locally-agreed alternative to General Medical Service (GMS) for providers of general practice. NHS England area teams will be reviewing PMS contracts over the next two years to ensure that additional funding meets a set of consistent principles and criteria, agreed as part of the review.

Commissioning and providing general practice services

In July 2013, Monitor set out to understand how well the current arrangements for commissioning and providing general practice services are working for patients and launched a call for evidence. Monitor has now published [Discussion document following Monitor's call for evidence on GP services](#) which summarises the issues that have been raised. These include: variations in access and quality; the ability of new or existing providers of GP services to develop the scope of their offer to the NHS; and providers' ability and incentives to work together to benefit patients. The document sets out to understand the work currently being undertaken in the sector to address these issues and, in light of this, to identify where their work will provide most benefit to patients.

GP and practice team bulletin

The latest [bulletin for GPs and practice teams](#) is now available.

RCGP calls on clinical commissioners to deliver extra funding for general practice

Dr Maureen Baker, chair of the [Royal College of General Practitioners](#), has written to all 211 clinical commissioning groups in England urging them to use their funding powers wisely to reverse the decline in general practice and deliver improvements in patient care - including the move towards an 'accountable GP' for vulnerable elderly people.

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Long term conditions

Exercise key to managing osteoarthritis

Exercise is a core treatment in managing [osteoarthritis](#), according to updated NICE guidance on the condition. In an update to the original 2008 guidance, NICE recommends that healthcare professionals offer advice on activity and exercise to all people with clinical osteoarthritis, as well as interventions to lose weight for those who are overweight or obese.

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Medicines management

NICE Evidence summaries: new medicines - Long-acting reversible contraception

NICE has published a new medicines evidence summary [ESNM31 Long-acting reversible contraception: subcutaneous depot medroxyprogesterone acetate \(DMPA-SC\)](#). Evidence summaries: new medicines' provide a summary of the published evidence for selected new medicines, or for existing medicines with new indications or formulations, that are considered to be of significance to the NHS. The strengths and weaknesses of the relevant evidence are critically reviewed within the summary, but the summaries are not formal NICE guidance.

Medicines optimisation briefing for asthma

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has published a briefing on medicines optimisation which focuses on asthma. The [briefing](#) encourages pharmacists to enquire about the patient's experience, appropriateness of the medicine and the safety and effectiveness of the medication for the patient. It details steps to take and questions to ask to ensure the patient is getting the most out of their medicine. The document also contains case studies to show how medicines optimisation can benefit patients

Update to National Cancer Drugs Fund list

NHS England has released an update to the [national cancer drugs fund list](#), further increasing access for patients to an additional three new cancer drugs. The additions to the list have been made following a review of trial data from the drugs by the Chemotherapy Clinical Reference Group (CRG), one of 74 such groups which provide clinical advice to NHS England regarding a range of specialised services.

Thousands more could be offered statins

Thousands more people could be [prescribed statins](#) to help lower cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes, under draft guidance. In an update to the existing guideline on lipid modification, NICE is proposing that the threshold be halved for offering statins to people to prevent cardiovascular disease (CVD), the cause of one in three deaths in the UK.

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Health informatics

Health and Social Care Information Centre strategy for 2013-2015

The Health and Social Care Information Centre has published [A strategy for the Health and Social Care Information Centre 2013 – 2015](#). The strategy sets out the Centre's priorities for the next 18 months, together with a roadmap for the longer-term development of data and information systems. The Health and Social Care Information Centre consulted widely on the strategy when it was published in draft form in October last year. The feedback received has been used in shaping the final document.

NICE innovation briefings

NICE has published the first in a new range of [“Medtech” briefings](#) on novel technologies.

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Clinical commissioning

Bulletins for CCGs

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Workforce innovation and improvement

NHS bands 1-4 workforce strategy consultation

Health Education England (HEE) has launched a [consultation](#) to hear views about developing staff in roles banded 1-4. The staff in bands 1-4 make up around 40 per cent of the NHS's 1.3 million workforce, and are responsible for an estimated 60 per cent of direct patient contact. However, this group receives only around 5 per cent of the whole training budget. HEE wants to know what people think are the barriers and challenges for this part of the workforce, and how these can be overcome. All the feedback collected will be analysed to create a bands 1-4 national strategy – “The Talent for Care”. The closing date for feedback is 24 March 2014.

Additional link: [Press release](#)

Delivering integrated care and support

A [report](#) by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS) highlights six factors in successful integrated care: vision, leadership, culture, local context, integrated teams and time. This paper seeks to distil key evidence to assist health and social care partnerships in their delivery of integrated care and support.

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Patient and community involvement

Clinical commissioning groups

This briefing by [Regional Voices](#) is aimed at supporting voluntary organisations in getting to know the developing health and care system. It outlines CCGs key responsibilities, describes how they will be held to account for their activity and provides examples of how community and voluntary groups can work with CCGs.

Patient and doctor partnership comes of age

To mark the 10th anniversary of the [BMA patient liaison group](#), the group has launched a new resource that helps patients and the public find out more about how the NHS works and how it can be navigated.

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Provider Services

Community services

The Kings Fund has published [Community services: how they can transform care](#). This paper looks at the changes needed to realise the full potential of community services for transforming care. The Transforming Community Services policy, launched in 2008, was mainly concerned with structural changes. While the emphasis on moving care closer to home has resulted in some reductions in length of hospital stay, it is now time to focus on the bigger issue of how services need to change to fundamentally transform care. The changes proposed in this paper require leadership and investment, and require organisations to find new ways to work together effectively. There is also a need for fundamental changes in how primary care and hospitals are configured and in how social care is commissioned.

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Public health

Guidance for doctors: alcohol, drugs and the workplace

Doctors can now access new BMA guidance to help them better understand and support patients and employers in tackling alcohol and illicit drug use. [Alcohol, drugs and the workplace - the role of medical professionals](#) recognises the prevalence of alcohol and drug misuse among people who work, and the impact on employers in terms of absenteeism and behavioural issues.

Be Clear on Cancer campaign: breast cancer in older women

Public Health England has launched a [new national Be Clear on Cancer campaign](#) which targets older women to increase early diagnoses of breast cancer. Latest figures show that one in 3 women diagnosed with breast cancer in England each year are aged 70 or over. This age group also accounts for more than half of all breast cancer deaths annually.

Preparing for the health and wellbeing framework

The Department of Health has published [Preparing for the health and wellbeing framework](#). The Health and Wellbeing Framework, is to be launched in the summer of 2014. It aims to use Public Health England's role as a national body for public health to get people talking about health and wellbeing, rather than illness.

Wellbeing and health

The Department of Health has published [Wellbeing: why it matters to health policy](#) together with a series of factsheets covering various aspects of health. These documents provide some of the important issues and relationships between wellbeing and health throughout someone's life. For health professionals, understanding the different parts of personal wellbeing may offer insights into how their own work fits into a wider context and how what they do can influence wellbeing. The evidence is largely from published, peer reviewed documents and each factsheet provides references for readers wishing to follow up the literature in more detail.

Growth and poverty in UK cities

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published [Cities, growth and poverty: evidence review](#). The report examines the connection between growth and poverty in UK cities. Cities are increasingly seen as the drivers of the national economy, and the UK Government is devolving new powers to the largest and fastest-growing urban areas. Cities also tend to have concentrations of poverty. This study examines how strategies for economic growth and poverty reduction can be aligned.

Suicide prevention report updated

The Department of Health has revised its first annual report on suicide prevention and the accompanying statistical update. [Preventing suicide in England: One year on](#) reflects corrections to the number of suicide deaths for children and young people under 15 and to the total number of suicides.

Public health transformation nine months on

The Local Government Association and Public Health England have published [Public health transformation nine months on - bedding in and reaching out](#). This resource describes how public health in a number of councils has started to use the opportunities of a local government setting to improve health and wellbeing. The detailed case studies provide key messages from the area, a description of the work they are undertaking to best meet local health priorities and plans for the future.

Turning the tide of inactivity

[This report](#) contains borough by borough analysis of increasing levels of physical inactivity across England, and the steps being taken to combat it.

It looks at the causes of inactivity and the interventions which are being effective. It also reveals that English local authorities spent on average just two per cent of public health budgets on physical activity promotion and investment in 2012.

Nine local actions to reduce health inequalities

The [British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences](#) has published a collection of opinion pieces from leading social scientists on health inequalities. Each author identifies one policy intervention that they think local authorities should introduce to reduce health inequalities.

Promoting physical activity

The Department of Health and the cabinet office, together with other government departments has published [Moving More, Living more: The Physical Activity Olympic and Paralympic Legacy for the Nation](#). The aim of the government is to promoting physical activity to have a more physically active nation as part of the legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The document builds on work already under way and sets out areas for action by government as a whole and across the sectors to realise this long-term ambition. The main document is accompanied by a series of annexes setting out: the benefits of physical activity; the national framework for delivery; work already in hand; a series of case studies and international best practice.

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Mental health

Lessons from mental health

The Kings Fund has published, [Service transformation: lessons from mental health](#). Mental health services have undergone radical transformation in the past 30 years. A community-based care model has largely replaced the acute and long-term care provided in large institutions. Similar change from hospital to community-based alternatives is a long-standing policy objective for physical health care in the United Kingdom. How far the two can be compared has been remarkably under-explored. This paper seeks to correct this by examining the transformation of mental health services in England and the relevance to current policy.

NICE Quality Standards: Anxiety disorders

NICE has published a new Quality Standard, [Anxiety disorders](#) (QS53). This quality standard covers a range of anxiety disorders, including generalised anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, panic disorder, obsessive–compulsive disorder and body dysmorphic disorder.

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Learning disabilities

Children and young people with learning disabilities and their mental health

The Mental Health Foundation has published an [information pack](#) which is intended to provide a basic introduction to mental wellbeing and mental health problems before considering mental health problems in children and young people with learning disabilities in more depth.

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Other

Dental contract pilots

The Department of Health has published [Dental contract pilots: evidence and learning report](#). The dental contract pilots have looked at how the focus of NHS dentistry can shift towards prevention and oral health from being primarily on treatment and repair. This report uses data collected over 2 years of piloting and focuses on series of questions: have practices made an impact on risk and disease; have practices met the treatment needs of their

patients; how have dentists adapted to the clinical operation of the pathway, including the use of software; how have practices adapted to the pilot in the way they manage the business and their clinical responsibility?

Knowledge strategy consultation

Public Health England has published the responses to its consultation on the strategic approach to its proposed [knowledge strategy](#). The department received 70 responses from organisations or individuals across a broad spectrum of organisations. The PHE Knowledge strategy was constructed around the eight priorities for knowledge. The responses received have made it clear that, whilst all eight priorities are still relevant and necessary, four are fundamental to a cycle of knowledge whilst the other four describe important but specific techniques, methodologies or disciplines. In trying to describe the approach to all eight priorities, some readers found the document repetitive and found it difficult to follow a thread.

NHS News

Issue 43 of [NHS News](#) includes the following items:

- Pop-up NHS university prospectus now available
- New national patient safety alerting system launched
- Help improve mental health training for midwives
- NHS England publishes outcomes of GP Personal Medical Services review
- NHS England releases update to national Cancer Drugs Fund list
- Have your say on NICE's vision for an enhanced British National Formulary

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