



## 09/05/2014 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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### Long term conditions

#### [Better care for people with two or more long term conditions](#)

The Department of Health has published [Comorbidities - A framework of principles for system-wide action](#). This framework sets out the challenges for the wider health and care system in addressing comorbidities and proposes a set of interconnected principles to consider in the design of systems and services to prevent and treat comorbidities. Comorbidities are a helpful focus to bring different parts of the system together to address shared health concerns and prevent fragmentation.

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### Medicines management

#### [Ophthalmic 'specials' guidance](#)

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the UK Ophthalmic Pharmacy Group have published ["ophthalmic specials"](#) guidance for prescribing unlicensed medicines. Analysis of primary care prescription data for the first nine months of 2013 has revealed that over 30,000 prescriptions for unlicensed eye preparations were dispensed in England and Wales at a cost of almost £3 million. The UK Ophthalmic Pharmacy Group (UK OPG) believes that this is not an effective or cost efficient use of NHS resources.

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## Clinical commissioning

The latest issue of [Commissioning Excellence](#) digs deeper into the subject and asks what it means for the role of commissioner. This issue also looks at how groups of practices in Lewisham and south Worcestershire are working together to deliver primary care at scale – and secure their own futures.

### Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group recommendations

The Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group (PSSAG) has made its [recommendations to ministers on services that NHS England will commission](#). PSSAG advises ministers on when NHS England should commission specialised services, rather than Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Ministers have accepted the recommendations set out in this report and have consulted with NHS England on the proposed changes.

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## Innovation and improvement policy

### NHS productivity challenge

The King's Fund has published [NHS productivity challenge: experience from the front line](#). The slowdown in the growth of NHS funding in England since 2010 has required the NHS to pursue the most ambitious programme of productivity improvement since its foundation. This report describes how six trusts have been grappling with the productivity challenge.

### Measuring what really matters

The Health Foundation has published a paper which describes the principles of person-centred care and the activities that a person-centred system should undertake in different contexts. [Measuring what really matters: towards a coherent measurement system to support person-centred care](#) explains how to think about constructing measurement systems for use in each of the different contexts. The paper also describes the core constituents of person-centredness to demonstrate the steps that could be followed in order to develop a coherent measurement system.

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## Public health

### Living well for longer

The Department of Health has published [Living Well for Longer: national support for local action to reduce premature avoidable mortality](#). This document sets out the actions being taken across the national health and wellbeing partnership of Government, Public Health England and NHS England to reduce premature avoidable mortality. It focuses on the 5 big killers: cancer; stroke; heart disease; lung disease; and liver diseases. It includes examples of good practice and help for local commissioning and service delivery.

### Weight Management Economic Assessment Tool

Public Health England has launched a [Weight Management Economic Assessment Tool](#) for public health professionals. The tool will help local authorities (LAs) to assess the financial benefit of adult weight management programmes to prevent and reduce obesity. LAs will now be able to compare the cost of a programme with potential future healthcare savings that may result. The tool estimates the health impact

of weight loss in any group of adults who have participated in a programme. The tool is accessible, easy to use and allows users to enter their own local data which will produce forecasts for up to 25 years.

Public Health England bulletin: [30 April 2014](#)

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## Children and young people

### Commissioning guides: children's and emergency general surgery

The Royal College of Surgeons has published commissioning guidance for the provision of general children's surgery and emergency general surgery.

These [guides](#) have been developed through a NICE accredited process and aim to support CCGs deliver high value and evidence based care.

### Improving children and young people's health

The Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum (CYPHOF) annual report reviews progress on improving health outcomes for children and young people.

### NHS Newborn Blood Spot Screening programme

The UK National Screening Committee has announced its recommendation to [screen every newborn baby in the UK for 4 new genetic disorders](#). This means expanding the current NHS Newborn Blood Spot Screening programme to screen for: homocystinuria (HCU), maple syrup urine disease (MSUD), glutaric aciduria type 1 (GA1) and isovaleric aciduria (IVA). The pilot programme was run by Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust in which over 700,000 babies across the country were screened for the new diseases in addition to the current 5 for which every newborn is currently screened. Following the results of this, the UK NSC was able to recommend extending the programme to screen for them.

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## Mental health

### Mental Health Awareness Week 2014

In conjunction with Mental Health Awareness Week (12-18 May 2014), the Mental Health Foundation has published two posters and booklet titled [Are you Anxiety Aware?](#) The posters provide a general message about anxiety, whilst the booklet explores what anxiety is, how it affects people and what to do if it goes beyond a 'healthy' level.

### Support for people with mental health problems

A report from the Centre for Mental Health suggests clinical commissioning groups should ensure they offer coherent and effective support for people with mental health problems who are diverted from police stations and courts. [Keys to Diversion](#) identifies the key elements of successful liaison and diversion services in Lewisham, Manchester, Portsmouth and in Plymouth, Bodmin and Truro. It finds that the most successful teams offer support for a person's needs, they build packages of support from a range of local agencies, and they stay in touch with people after they have been referred to other services.

## World Dementia Council meets for the first time

The [World Dementia Council](#) has met for the first time in a bid to stimulate the innovation and development of life-enhancing drugs, treatments and care for people with dementia within a generation. The inaugural meeting took place in London.

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## **Palliative Care**

### End of life care profiles for CCGs

The National End of Life Care Intelligence Network has published [end of life care profiles for clinical commissioning groups](#) for the first time. The profiles draw together a wide range of information to give an overview of variations in cause and place of death, by age and sex, for each CCG in England. The profiles will help commissioners and providers of end of life care get a clearer picture of the end of life care needs of their local populations. They will help with the planning and delivery of services and will support drives locally towards improving end of life care. In total, there are 170 indicators, presented in four separate tools, using Office for National Statistics mortality data from 2010 to 2012.

### Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination Systems (EPaCCS) in England

A survey of clinical commissioning groups by the National End of Life Care Intelligence Network conducted in 2013 provides an overview of [Electronic Palliative Care Co-ordination Systems](#) implementation across England. The report of the survey includes information about systems and approaches being used and shares the learning and experiences of implementers. This will be useful to all those implementing or planning local EPaCCS or other electronic co-ordination systems. The report will also be useful to IT systems suppliers and there are important messages regarding the need for system suppliers to work together to support interoperable systems.

### SIGN guideline: care of deteriorating patients

The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network has published [Care of deteriorating patients \(SIGN 139\)](#). This guidance provides consensus recommendations based on expert opinion for best practice in the management of deteriorating adult patients. The recommendations are intended to guide NHSScotland boards, hospitals and health professionals in the development of local systems that will deliver reliable recognition and response to the deteriorating patients in their care.

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## **Other**

### Framework for measuring and monitoring safety

The Health Foundation has published [Practical guide - A framework for measuring and monitoring safety](#). It aims to help those working in the NHS answer the question 'How safe is our care?' and bring about constructive change. The guide describes some broad principles to bear in mind when using the framework and provides some prompts for each of the framework's dimensions to help people focus on some of the main challenges to understanding safety.

### Health Education England mandate

The Department of Health has published [Delivering high quality, effective, compassionate care: Developing the right people with the right skills and the right values - A mandate from the Government to Health Education England: April 2014 to March 2015](#). This Health Education England (HEE) mandate for financial year 2014 to 2015 reflects updated strategic objectives around: workforce planning, health education and training and development. It sets out HEE's role in the government response to the Francis report and requirements to support NHS and public health service priorities, such as to improve health outcomes.

### Access to primary care among vulnerable groups

The Department of Health has published [Inclusive practice: improving access to primary care and reduce risk of avoidable admission to hospital](#). This document reviews levels of hospitalisation for the four vulnerable groups identified in the Inclusion Health programme: vulnerable migrants, Gypsies and Travellers, people who are homeless and sex workers. It follows a first report "Hidden needs" which reviewed the availability and gaps in routine data and surveys covering the needs and health outcomes of these four groups. This report includes details of various projects established in the country including those established throughout the Yorkshire region.

The latest issue of [NHS News](#) (issue 56) includes the following news items:

- Progress needed across children and young people's healthcare
- Final chance to have your say on Improving Dental Care and Oral Health – A Call to Action
- Local health professionals to get more power to improve NHS primary care

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