



Summary of National Documents

December 2016

Shared commitment to quality

December 21st | NHS England

The National Quality Board (NQB) has published a new framework that will promote improved quality criteria across all national health organisations for the first time.

The new publication provides a nationally agreed definition of quality and guide for clinical and managerial leaders wanting to improve quality.

The approach has been agreed by the national bodies that form the NQB to provide more consistency and to enable the system to work together more effectively.

It is part of work to cut unnecessary red tape by reducing duplication and aligning demands on professionals for information on the quality of services.

The document sets out a range of measures to achieve higher and consistent standards including: the need for a common language that people who use services understand; to ensure commissioners and providers experience a coherent system of assurance, measurement and regulation; that professionals and staff are equipped and empowered to deliver safe, effective, and responsive care; and leaders should create a culture where people feel free to speak up when something goes wrong.

Read the full overview [here](#)

Read the full framework [here](#)

NHS England announces £101 million of new funding for new care model vanguards

December 21st | NHS England

The vanguards are partnerships of NHS, local government, voluntary, community and other organisations that are implementing plans to improve the healthcare people receive, prevent ill health and save funds.



Considerable progress has been made since the vanguards were launched in 2015 and there is emerging evidence that they are making significant improvements at a local level. This includes reducing pressure on busy GP and A&E services.

In addition to the funding, the vanguards will continue to receive support from NHS England and other national bodies to implement their plans, including how they harness new technology including apps and shared computer systems. They are also receiving help to develop their workforce so that it is organised around patients and their local populations.

Read the full overview [here](#)

Transformation fund call to bid

December 21st | NHS England

To support the implementation of the Five Year Forward View vision of better health, better patient care and improved NHS efficiency, NHS England has created a transformation fund.

The interventions for which transformation funding are available are:

- [Cancer](#)
- [Diabetes](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Learning Disabilities](#)

Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) are central to this process and all bids should be explicitly linked to the relevant local STP plans. This process is open to any STP, although individual organisations or alliances may bid on behalf of an STP for this funding; submission of applications must be via STPs.

Read the full overview [here](#)

Nuffield winter insight Briefing 1: Winter beds pressures

December 21st | Nuffield Trust

On the single busiest day last winter, an extra 4,390 beds had to be opened, equivalent to more than seven extra hospitals in one day. On average, over 95% of beds across English hospitals were occupied every day last winter, despite evidence that once bed occupancy rates exceed 85%-90%, there is an increasing risk of infection. Given that pressures on the health service have not lessened over the last 12 months, Trusts will face similarly high bed occupancy rates this winter.



Read the full overview [here](#)

Read the full report [here](#)

Shaping healthy cities and economies: The role of clinical commissioning

19th December | NHSCC

NHS Clinical Commissioners have published a new report showing the positive contribution that clinical commissioners are making to their local economies. With the recent Autumn Statement making it clear that neither health nor social care will receive additional funding to alleviate pressure on their increasingly overstretched services, the question of how the NHS can drive prosperity in local areas is an increasingly important one.

Read the full overview [here](#)

Read the full report [here](#)

Policy paper update: nursing, midwifery and allied health students will no longer receive NHS bursaries

16th December | Department of Health

From 1 August 2017, new nursing, midwifery and allied health students will no longer receive NHS bursaries. Instead, they will have access to the same student loans system as other students. This guidance explains the reforms.

Read the full paper [here](#)

A review of the way NHS trusts review and investigate the deaths of patients in England

13th December | Care Quality Commission

A year after a review commissioned by NHS England uncovered failings at Southern Health Foundation Trust, the CQC look at how acute, community and mental health trusts across the country investigate and learn from deaths of people who have been in their care.

The report focused on five key areas:

1. Involvement of families and carers



2. Identification and reporting
3. Decision to review or investigate
4. Reviews and investigations
5. Governance and learning

Read the full overview [here](#)

Read the full report [here](#)

The importance of public health in the nursing curriculum

13th December | Evidence-Based Nursing [blog]

It's easy to imagine that public health is falling out of favour in the UK in the current era of austerity, which has ushered in cuts for local authorities, who are now predominantly responsible for the public health of their local population. With the Local Government Association (LGA) itself expressing concern and disappointment in the government's approach to the funding of this essential remit, it would be easy to believe that improvements to public health are a fading aspiration.

However, the NHS's own Five Year Forward Plan commits to 'getting serious about prevention', and cites examples of integrated models of care which are aimed at addressing health needs and promoting better health.

So what does this mean for nurses? And what kind of nurse education do we need to deliver to ensure that future nurses are as equipped as possible to embrace and contribute to this challenging future?

Read the full blog post [here](#)

The UK must improve its approach to medical management

December 12th | Nuffield Trust [blog]

"The [latest research](#) from the Nuffield Trust provides a fascinating assessment of the state of the relationship between doctors and managers. The fact that we continue to look on them as two separate tribes probably says it all, but I would recommend reading the whole thing. I was particularly struck by the finding that chief executives are the most optimistic group – which either shows that they have a true understanding that things will get better or a delusional belief in their own abilities to bring about change, depending where you sit.

<http://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/publications/doctors-managers>



Undoubtedly this relationship is at the heart of the NHS and must be nurtured if the service is to survive and improve in these hard times for us all. The patients are at the centre of everything we do and that is worthy of a constant reminder to everyone. Together we can make great things happen.”

Read the full blog post [here](#)

NHS continuing healthcare strategic improvement programme

December 9th | NHS England

Paul Baumann, NHS England’s chief financial officer, and Professor Jane Cummings, NHS England’s chief nursing officer, have launched a new national NHS continuing healthcare strategic improvement programme.

A collaborative engagement method will be at the centre of the programme’s approach. The NHS England team will work with CCGs to identify best practice and explore new approaches to improve NHS continuing healthcare.

Click [here](#) to read the joint letter published to launch the new national transformation programme

Additional link: more about [NHS Continuing Healthcare](#)

New Royal College of Midwifery reports on staffing

9th December | Royal College of Midwifery

Midwifery staffing is the focus of two new publications from the RCM.

They come at a time of rising demand due to a historically high birthrate, increasingly complex pregnancies and expectations that midwives will deliver more support and advice. Growing demand is combined with a decade-long midwifery shortage, a rapidly ageing workforce and fears of a fall in applications to study midwifery.

The reports are:

[Getting the midwifery workforce right](#) - outlines how maternity services should be organised, funded and staffed.

[RCM guidance on implementing the NICE safe staffing guideline on midwifery staffing in maternity settings](#) - supports senior midwives and NHS managers implement the NICE safe midwifery staffing guideline.



New NHS leadership framework – Developing people improving care

December 9th | NHS England

NHS England and NHS Improvement have been working with the other health Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) to develop the new NHS leadership framework – Developing people improving care.

This is an evidence-based national framework to guide action on improvement skill-building, leadership development and talent management for people in NHS-funded roles.

The framework focuses on helping NHS and social care staff to develop four critical capabilities:

- Systems leadership for staff who are working with partners in other local services on ‘joining up’ local health and care systems for their communities
- Established quality improvement methods that draw on staff and service users’ knowledge and experience to improve service quality and efficiency
- Inclusive and compassionate leadership, so that all staff are listened to, understood and supported, and that leaders at every level of the health system truly reflect the talents and diversity of people working in the system and the communities they serve
- Talent management to support NHS-funded services to fill senior current vacancies and future leadership pipelines with the right numbers of diverse, appropriately developed people

Read more about the framework on the [NHS Improvement website](#).

Quality at a cost: QualityWatch annual statement 2016.

8th December | The Health Foundation | Nuffield Trust

This report looks at a range of care quality measures across the NHS in England. It highlights several areas of health care where standards have improved, but the authors point to slowing improvement in other areas, growing waiting times and continuing financial pressures.

QualityWatch routinely monitors over 300 indicators spread across all domains of quality. This report considers a selection of areas from within this set, covering different stages of a patient’s experience of the health service, to give a picture of quality in 2016.



It looks across six main areas:

- Public health
- Primary care
- Ambulances
- Hospital care
- Mental health
- Condition-specific care (stroke and hip fracture)

The report observes that the pressure of austerity did not impact on quality measures straight away, but took a few years to be felt. Authors conclude that further 'delayed decline' could occur in other aspects of care quality, such as effectiveness of treatment or patient safety, given the extent of the challenges faced and ongoing austerity in health and social care spending.

Read the report [here](#)

Keeping medicine brilliant: improving working conditions in the acute setting.

8th December 2016 | Royal College of Physicians

The Royal College of Physicians has published [Keeping medicine brilliant: improving working conditions in the acute setting](#). This report focuses on developing the evidence base to support new ways of assessing and improving doctors' morale. The report also explores the issue of recruitment to the rank of medical registrar, and highlights that the perception of on-call roles as being extremely stressful and a significant deterrent to recruitment.

The RCP identify eight 'domains' of a doctor's working life that need to be assessed and supported. The report suggests it is essential that all eight domains are addressed in a holistic way to improve the morale and wellbeing of doctors:

- Work
- Physical environment needed for work
- Interpersonal relations in the workplace
- Hospital administration and policies
- Personal characteristics
- Career, education and training
- External/home circumstances
- Patient safety



The challenge and potential of whole system flow. Improving flow across whole health and care systems.

6th December | The Health Foundation

Whole system flow is the coordination of all systems and resources, across a health and social care economy, to deliver effective, efficient, person-centred care in the right setting at the right time and by the right person.

Improving flow is seen by both practice leaders and policymakers as having a crucial role to play in driving up service quality and productivity, as well as improving the experience of care for patients and service users.

The challenge and potential of whole system flow introduces methods that local health and social care leaders can use to improve whole system flow. It also describes steps policymakers and regulators can take to create an environment conducive to change at this scale.

Read the overview [here](#)

Read the full report [here](#)

One third of GP vacancies remain unfilled

5th December | BMA

Thirty-one per cent of partners responding to the association's GP survey admitted they had had to put up with vacancies, having not been able to recruit over the year-long period.

The survey also found that one in five partners reported their practice taking between three to six months to appoint staff to a vacant posts, while only one in eight said they had had no gaps to fill.

Areas with the highest levels of unfilled vacancies include the west midlands and east of England, each at 35 per cent reporting, and the east midlands at 34 per cent.

Read the full news story [here](#)



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Shared commitment to quality

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New Royal College of Midwifery reports on staffing

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One third of GP vacancies remain unfilled

<https://www.bma.org.uk/news/2016/december/one-third-of-gp-vacancies-remain-unfilled>

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