



13/02/2015 Health News Weekly Digest

This bulletin is a digest of the Daily Health Bulletin produced by NHS Yorkshire and Humber Commissioning Support.

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Monday

Air travel and pregnancy

Updated patient information published by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists suggests the safest time to fly during pregnancy is before 37 weeks and before 32 weeks if expecting twins. [Air travel and pregnancy](#) provides women and their families with advice on possible side effects of flying, when it may be advised not to fly and what to take on board the flight.

Additional link: [RCOG press release](#)

Mental Health Act Annual Report 2013/14

The Care Quality Commission has published [Mental Health Act Annual Report 2013/14](#). This report provides information about the experiences of patients who received care under the Mental Health Act (MHA) throughout 2013/14. During the year, the CQC carried out 1,227 MHA monitoring visits and MHA Reviewers carried out 174 inspections with the mental health inspection teams. The inspections highlighted the variation of care provided to detained patients. There were concerns around services not routinely involving patients in their treatment and the issue of bed availability and the increasing number of patients being detained far away from home.

Additional link: [CHC annual report infographic](#)

Variations in routes to diagnosis for gynaecological cancers

The National Cancer Intelligence Network has published [Exploring variations in Routes to Diagnosis for gynaecological cancers, 2006 to 2010](#). This report examines the variation in routes to diagnosis for all types of gynaecological cancer. It highlights that for ovarian cancer the most common route was 'emergency presentation' and for uterine, cervical and vulval cancers the most common route to diagnosis is via 'managed routes'. The aim of the Routes to Diagnosis project was to examine demographic, organisational, service or personal reasons for delayed diagnosis.

Care Act 2014 cap on care costs and appeals

The Department of Health is launching a consultation on [draft regulations and guidance to implement the cap on care costs and policy proposals for a new appeals system for care and support](#). The consultation seeks views on the parts of those reforms due to come into force in April 2016. Part 1 seeks stakeholders' views on funding reform, focusing on draft regulations and guidance that will introduce the cap on care costs and other changes for 2016. Part 2 seeks stakeholders' views on appeals policy proposals for a new system of appeals for care and support under the Care Act 2014.

Additional link: [DH press release](#)

Partnership arrangements between NHS bodies and local authorities

The Department of Health has begun an open consultation seeking views on bringing NHS England's primary medical care functions into local authorities and health bodies' partnership arrangements. The proposed amendments set out in [NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015 Public Consultation](#) will make it possible for pooled budgets to include funding for primary medical care which will encourage greater integration across community health, social care and primary care. The consultation period runs until the 8 March 2015.

Is special measures working?

Dr Foster has published [Is special measures working?](#) This report provides the first analysis of the impact that the intervention of 'special measures' has had on mortality rates at the eleven hospital trusts placed under these measures following a review into standards of care in 2013. The report concludes special measures has been effective at reducing mortality rates across the 11 trusts combined. Following this report the Health Secretary has announced new plans to reduce the number of "avoidable deaths" in English hospitals with an [annual review of 2,000 cases of patients who later died](#) which would allow hospitals to be ranked according to avoidable mortality rates

Additional links: [BBC News report](#)

Bulletins

- [Chief Nursing Officer bulletin](#) - February 2015
 - [NHS workforce bulletin](#) - 2 February 2015
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Tuesday

Proposed standards for complaints advocacy

Healthwatch England has published its vision for complaints advocacy [Independent complaints advocacy: standards to support the commissioning delivery and monitoring of the service](#). The vision sets out principles that must be at the heart of complaints advocacy. The standards describe what these principles look like in practice, from the perspective of service users and providers. The document also includes examples to illustrate what the standards might look like when put into practice.

Building sustainable GP services

Prior to a Parliamentary debate last week relating to the current pressure on general practice and options for addressing it, the Nuffield Trust produced a Parliamentary Briefing [Building sustainable GP services](#). This short briefing pulls together key findings from the Nuffield Trust's work in this area. It examines funding and workforce difficulties, explores possible effects on patient care and A&E, and makes recommendations for the future. The briefing advocates both increased funding and the development of larger scale general practices which work closely with the wider NHS, managing patients better and meeting more complex needs.

New medicines summary: Rituximab

NICE has published a new unlicensed or off-label medicine evidence summary [Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia: rituximab \(ESUOM39\)](#). Evidence summaries: unlicensed or off-label medicines' summarise the published evidence for selected unlicensed or off-label medicines that are considered to be of significance to the NHS, where there are no clinically appropriate licensed alternatives. The summaries provide information for clinicians and patients to inform their decision-making and support the construction and updating of local formularies.

Pregnant women advised to avoid animals giving birth

Public Health England has issued a reminder to [women who are or may be pregnant to avoid animals that are giving, or have recently given, birth](#). Although the number of human pregnancies affected by contact with an infected animal is extremely small, it is important that pregnant women are aware of the potential risks and take appropriate precautions.

Transfer of 0-5 children's public health commissioning to local authorities

The Department of Health has added a factsheet [Mandation of universal healthy child programme assessments/reviews](#) to its list of resources relating to the transfer of 0 to 5 children's public health commissioning to local authorities in October 2015.

Statistics

- [HES-MHLD Data Linkage Report Summary Statistics](#) - October 2014
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Bulletins

- [Yorkshire and the Humber Renal Network News](#) – Issue 2, February 2015
- [NHS Benchmarking Network](#) – February Newsletter
- [NHS Managers' Bulletin](#) – Issue 53, 5 February 2015
- [CCG Bulletin](#) – Issue 77, 9 February 2015
- [NICE Public Health Awareness Bulletin](#) – Issue 32, February 2015

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Wednesday

Variation in the care of patients with COPD

The Royal College of Physicians has published [COPD: Who cares matters, National Chronic obstructive Pulmonary Disease \(COPD\) Audit Programme: Clinical audit of COPD exacerbations admitted to acute units in England and Wales 2014](#). This report is the second in the current round of the 2014 secondary care component of the national chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) audit, and it covers the description of clinical care in the acute hospital setting. It builds on the experiences of the three previous audits since 1997 and reflects not only the performance of the hospital services but also the generally improving long-term care for patients with COPD. This report differs from its predecessors by beginning to appreciate that it is not entirely possible to divorce the hospital episode from what is happening in the community. It also acknowledges that the shape of hospital care is changing.

Additional link: [NICE press release](#)

Female Genital Mutilation e-learning resource

Health Education England is set to launch a [new e-learning](#) resource designed to improve the knowledge and understanding of female genital mutilation amongst healthcare professionals in the NHS. Developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, and supported by the Department of Health's FGM Prevention team, the material deals with the issues posed by FGM at all stages of a girl or woman's life, including the impact on physical and emotional health, legal status and referral pathways. The content has been written by clinicians with real practical experience of working with women and children in this field, supported by a wide range of stakeholders (including survivors). In the lead up to the official launch, HEE encourages everyone to visit the e-lfh.org.uk website to find out about how NHS staff, including school nurses, practice nurses, health visitors and GPs can gain access to this free interactive e-learning resource.

Children and young people to get more say in their health care

Children and young people are set to play a more active role in deciding which mental health outcomes are most important to them. The move comes as NHS England announces seven sites across the country chosen to develop [Patient Centred Outcome Measures](#) for children and young people with a range of health conditions. As well as psychological interventions as part of medical treatment, and mental health conditions such as self-harming and eating disorders, children will be consulted on illnesses such as asthma, complex respiratory conditions, palliative care, and on use of wheelchair and posture services.

Change in the NHS

The Kings Fund has published new digital report, [the future is now](#). The report looks across England and overseas into future ways of changing health and health care systems. It brings together examples of change, focusing on a future that already exists, albeit unevenly distributed. From Yorkshire and London, to Sweden and the Netherlands it provides examples of change that is unfolding among patients and the public; among NHS staff and leaders; and across systems

NHS Constitution for England

The Department of Health has published [How do I give feedback or make a complaint about an NHS service?](#) It explains how patients can give feedback or make a complaint about NHS care or treatment. It includes information on the NHS complaints arrangements, and what patients can expect when they make a complaint. This document has been added to the suite of other documents published March 2012 relation to the NHS Constitution.

Community centred approaches to health and well-being

Public Health England has published [A guide to community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing](#). This guide outlines a 'family of approaches' for evidence-based community-centred approaches to health and wellbeing. It presents the work undertaken in phase 1 of the project and provides a guide to the case for change, the concepts, the varieties of approach that have been tried and tested and sources of evidence.

Additional link: [PHE press release](#)

Statistics

- [NHS Safety Thermometer Report](#) - January 2014 to January 2015

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Culture change in the NHS

The Department of Health has published [Culture change in the NHS: applying the lessons of the Francis Inquiries](#). The report shows that a great deal has been achieved since Sir Robert Francis's public inquiry into Mid Staffs, and that the improvements made since must be sustained and embedded for the future and applied equally and rigorously across all sectors of the health and care system. Each chapter sets out the main areas where further action is needed to ensure that safe, effective and compassionate care is the norm. The supporting annex sets out in detail the substantial progress made against the 290 recommendations of the Francis report.

Additional link: [DH News report](#)

Guidance on the use of hidden cameras to monitor care

The Care Quality Commission has published a [leaflet](#) aimed at people who are thinking about using hidden cameras or any type of recording equipment to monitor someone's care. It details some of the things families, carers and people should consider if they are thinking of using such equipment, as well as explaining other steps they can take to raise their concerns. The Care Quality Commission published in December 2014 guidance for providers setting out the responsible steps they need to take into account when considering or already using open or hidden surveillance.

Additional link: [BBC News report](#)

Evidence Update: Feverish illness in children

NICE has published a new evidence update [Feverish illness in children \(Evidence Update 73\)](#). It provides a summary of selected new evidence relevant to NICE clinical guideline 160 'Feverish illness in children: assessment and initial management in children younger than 5 years' (2013).

Smoking in cars carrying children to become illegal

Parliament has approved regulations which will make [smoking in cars carrying children illegal](#). The new rules will come into force on 1 October 2015 and people failing to comply could face a £50 fixed penalty notice. Public Health England will launch a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers that secondhand smoke in homes and cars can cause to children's health. Public Health England will also be running a campaign later in the year to raise awareness of the new legislation.

Additional link: [BBC News report](#)

Improving transparency in the NHS

The Department of Health has published [MyNHS – greater transparency for better health and care: MyNHS planning 2015-2017](#). The MyNHS website is a single place where health and care organisations, as well as the public, can compare the performance of services over a range of measures, at both local and national level. The site aims to drive improvement across the health and care system encouraging organisations and professional teams to compare their performance and see where they can improve what they do and the services they offer. The document summarises the current plans for how the information on MyNHS will be expanded and improved between 2015 and 2017.

Eyes on Evidence

The February 2015 issue of [Eyes on Evidence](#) has been published and includes the following items:

- Community-based palliative care teams
- Preoperative chemotherapy for treatment of non-small-cell lung cancer
- Probiotics to prevent necrotising enterocolitis in preterm infants
- Surgical safety checklists and short-term mortality
- Risk of fall injuries in older people with commonly prescribed medicines
- Effects of inhaled corticosteroids on growth in children and young people with asthma
- Accreditation news

Statistics

- [NHS Dental Statistics for England](#) - 2014/15, Second quarterly report
- [NHS Payments to General Practice](#) - England, 2013/14, Experimental Statistics
- [Referral to Treatment waiting times statistics](#) - December 2014

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Friday

New learning materials published for health visitors

The Institute of Health Visiting has developed [new resources to support the continuing professional development](#) of health visitors. The new resources include:

- A National Framework for Continuing Professional Development for Health Visitors – This framework has been developed for employers of HVs to support the commissioning and benchmarking of CPD across all HV service providers
 - Lifelong Learning in Health Visiting a guide to personalise continuing professional development. This guide aims to enable them to review their own personal and professional development and consider how best to develop their own practice.
 - A new online CPD directory for health visitors to provide them with access to a wide range of CPD opportunities to enhance their capabilities
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Trends in life expectancy

Public Health England has published [Recent Trends in Life Expectancy at Older Ages](#). This report on life expectancy among those aged 65 and over in England summarises the relevant trends and provides some context for those trying to assess the significance of recent apparent changes. The report confirms an overall upward trend in life expectancy in this age group in England since the early 1980s. However, the data also show that there was a small fall in female life expectancy at age 65, 75, 85 and 95 in 2012 compared with 2011, and a small fall in male life expectancy at ages 85 and 95.

Additional link: [PHE press release](#)

NICE Quality Standard: Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults

NICE has published a new quality standard [Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults QS80](#). This quality standard covers the treatment and management of psychosis and schizophrenia (including related psychotic disorders such as schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder and delusional disorder) in adults (18 years and older) with onset before the age of 60 years in primary, secondary and community care. It will not cover adults with transient psychotic symptoms.

Alcohol and Pregnancy

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has updated its [patient information for women about drinking alcohol during pregnancy or planning a baby](#). The revised information, based on existing guidance, gives advice on the safe amount of alcohol to drink before and during pregnancy. It outlines the effect of drinking above a safe limit on the baby's development in the womb. It also provides information about help and support available for women. It recommends that women do not drink alcohol during the first three months of pregnancy.

Public Health Transformation

The Local Government Association has published [Public health transformation twenty months on: adding value to tackle local health needs](#). This document includes a compilation of case studies showing how local authorities are continuing to make progress on improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequalities since public health was formally transferred in April 2013. The case studies were chosen because they show a range of ways in which public health in councils is approaching its new roles. They include councils spread across England, covering both rural and urban environments and with varying levels of deprivation and affluence.

Informed

The 12 February issue of [Informed](#) has been published by NHS England. It includes the following items:

- Tim Kelsey welcomes five millionth piece of feedback for Friends and Family
 - Compassion in care campaign hits new milestone
 - New framework for commissioning support services announced
 - System-wide report on transforming services for people with learning disabilities published
 - Health visiting: Listening to parents, transforming services
 - Improving experiences of care: Our shared understanding and ambition
 - Cancer Research UK publish new figures on prevalence of cancer
 - 'No More Ping Pong' – Health and social care working better together to deliver NHS Continuing Healthcare for people with Learning Disabilities
 - National leaders to address the first UK e-Health week
-

Statistics

- [Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures in England](#) - April 2013 to March 2014 - February 2015 Release
- [Provisional Monthly Patient Reported Outcome Measures in England](#) - April 2014 to September 2014
- [Hospital Activity Data](#) - December 2014
- [NHS cancelled elective operations](#) - quarter ending 31 December 2014


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<i>The evidence you need</i>
