



13/03/15 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

#### **Strengthening rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues - consultation**

The Department of Health has launched a consultation seeking views to strengthen rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues to enable them to live independently. [No voice unheard, no right ignored – a consultation for people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions](#) explores options on issues such as how people can: be supported to live independently, as part of a community; be assured that their views will be listened to; challenge decisions about them and about their care; exercise control over the support they receive with a Personal Health Budget; expect that different health and local services will organise themselves around their needs; and know that professionals are looking out for their physical health needs as well as their mental health needs.

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#### **Indirect payments for people who lack capacity**

The Mental Health Foundation and National Institute for Health Research School for Social Care Research have published '[Indirect payments' for people who lack capacity: how are they working in practice](#). This study aimed to explore how direct payments are operating for people who lack capacity to consent are living with learning disabilities or dementia. The study found clear benefits of a direct payment being reported for some recipients. There are some areas of concern including confusion over assessments and some aspects of best interest decision-making processes. The research suggests there may be improvements to the way in which suitable people are identified and supported.

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## Integrated Personal Commissioning Programme

NHS England and the Local Government Association have named the first eight sites that will, for the first time, blend comprehensive health and social care funding for individuals and allow them to take control of how it is used. The [first wave of the Integrated Personal Commissioning \(IPC\) programme](#) will go live on 1 April 2015, providing some 10,000 people with complex needs with greater power to decide how their own combined health and social care budget is spent. The eight sites, which include Barnsley, are now working on refining their project plans ahead of the launch in April.

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### Online learning module: optimising the use of corticosteroids

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has launched an [online learning module on reducing the side effects of steroid medicines](#). The module will help clinicians to optimise the use of corticosteroids. Designed for doctors, nurses and pharmacists, the interactive programme runs through the important side effects of corticosteroids and shows the learner how the risks can be managed. Additional link: [MHRA press release](#)

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### Most providers opt for 'Enhanced Tariff' for 2015/16

Monitor and NHS England have announced that 210 out of 241 NHS trusts and foundation trusts will [move to the new voluntary tariff option \(the 'Enhanced Tariff Option' \(ETO\) for 2015/16](#). The providers who have not affirmatively opted in to the ETO will continue on current prices (the 2014/15 'Default Tariff Rollover', or DTR) until such time as a new tariff is established. This will not be until later this year, possibly following a referral by Monitor to the Competition and Markets Authority.

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### Sugars intake for adults and children

The World Health Organisation has published a guideline [Sugars intake for adults and children](#). The objective of this guideline is to provide recommendations on the intake of free sugars to reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases in adults and children, with a particular focus on the prevention and control of unhealthy weight gain and dental caries. The recommendations in this guideline can be used by policy-makers and programme managers to assess current intake levels of free sugars in their countries relative to a benchmark. They can also be used to develop measures to decrease intake of free sugars, where necessary, through a range of public health interventions

Additional link: [WHO press release](#)

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### Working longer further reading library

The Working Longer Group has brought together a library of research publications and websites to help employers and employees further understand the implications of working to a raised retirement age. The [Working longer further reading library](#) will be kept up to date with new and demerging research and publications.

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## Tuesday

### Public mental health leadership and workforce development

Public Health England has published [Public mental health leadership and workforce development framework](#). The purpose of this framework is to inform and influence the development of public health leadership and the workforce in relation to mental health. The aim is to build the capacity and capability of leaders and a workforce that is confident, competent, and committed to: promoting good mental health across the population; preventing mental illness and suicide; and improving the quality and length of life of people living with mental illness.

Additional link: [PHE Press release](#)

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### Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum annual report

The Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum (CYPHOF) has published its [second annual report](#). It looks at the Forum's impact since it was established in January 2012, and looks ahead to what the Forum thinks the next Government should do to improve children and young people's health outcomes. Accompanying the Annual Report are 6 theme group reports and 2 separate papers that set out key questions and challenges and contain examples of good practice.

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### Welfare of vulnerable people in police custody

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published [The welfare of vulnerable people in police custody](#). This report describes a thematic inspection on the welfare of vulnerable people in police custody. Inspectors found clear evidence that custody could have been avoided for a number of vulnerable adults and children had other services been available to support them. The report concludes that taking such individuals into custody has a detrimental impact on their health and wellbeing, and in many cases is the wrong approach.

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### Resources for nurses who support carers

The Queen's Nursing Institute has launched three online resources to support nurses who work with carers. The [Supporting Carers](#) resources contain case studies and hypothetical scenarios to aid learning. There are separate resources for district nurses, general practice and school nurses. Subjects covered include safeguarding, referral, burden of care, cultural and social context, personal and professional development, boundaries of practice, multi-disciplinary working and ethical and legal responsibilities

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### Palliative care funding

NHS England has produced a [development currency for palliative care](#) which focuses on patient need. The aim of the work is to provide a transparent basis for palliative care commissioning. This document has been updated following comments from stakeholders. It is the final development currency and will be used as the basis for further testing in 2015/16

Patient Care ... Professional Development ... Commissioning ... Evidence-based Practice ... Revalidation ... Research ...

Clinical Pathways ... Knowledge Management ... Books ... Journals ... Critical Appraisal ... Bulletins ... Alerts ... DynaMed ... Map of Medicine ... Health Education Resources ... Athens ... Laptops ... Literature Searching ... MEDLINE ... Referencing ...

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## NICE guidance: innovation briefings

NICE has published the following innovation briefings:

- [The TaperGuard Evac oral tracheal tube for mechanically ventilated intensive care patients at risk of ventilator-associated pneumonia](#) (MIB22)
- [The Epidrum for aiding access to the epidural space](#) (MIB23)
- [The OraQuick HCV point-of-care test for rapid detection of hepatitis C virus antibodies](#) (MIB24)

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## NHS Change Day

Tomorrow, 11 March 2015, is [NHS Change Day](#). This day is an opportunity to come together and harness individual creativity and ideas to make a change in the NHS. It's a single day of collective action to improve care for patients, their families and their carers. NHS employees are encouraged to pledge to make a small action that will make a difference

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## Wednesday

### New era of patient care

The NHS has chosen the first twenty nine '[vanguard' geographies](#) which aim to transform care for patients in towns, cities and counties across England. Drawing on a new £200 million transformation fund and tailored national support, from April the vanguards will develop local health and care services to keep people well, and bring home care, mental health and community nursing, GP services and hospitals together for the first time since 1948. For patients, this will lead to a significant improvement in their experience of health services. It is estimated more than five million patients will benefit, just from this first wave. For example, this could mean: fewer trips to hospitals as cancer and dementia specialists and GPs work in new teams; a single point of access for family doctors, community nurses, social and mental health services; and access to tests, dialysis or chemotherapy much closer to home.

**Additional link:** [Monitor press release](#)

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## Review into medical innovation and technology

The Department of Health has announced details of a review of plans to give NHS patients quicker access to innovative medicines and medical technology. The '[Innovative Medicines and Medical Technology Review](#)' will improve the speed at which medical innovations such as precision medicines, digital devices, apps, diagnostics and new therapeutic technologies get to patients and their families. The aim of the review is to ensure that the UK is the fastest place in the world for the design, development and widespread adoption of medical innovations.

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## Achieving parity of esteem for mental health

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Mental Health has published [Parity in Progress?](#) The report is the result of an inquiry into 'parity of esteem 2014/2015', to assess how the Government is meeting its objective to give mental health equal priority to physical health. The APPG found that although progress has been made in some areas, there is still a long way to go before parity is achieved. In particular, their report calls for an independent review as to how both the NHS and clinical commissioning groups are being held to account on parity.

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## NICE guidance: Medtech innovation briefings

NICE has published the following Medtech innovation briefings:

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- [The Epidrum for aiding access to the epidural space](#) (MIB23)
- [The OraQuick HCV point of care test for rapid detection of hepatitis C virus antibodies](#) (MIB24)

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## Bulletin

- [Public Health Awareness Bulletin](#) - Issue 35 March 2015

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## Statistics

- [NHS Safety Thermometer Report](#) - England February 2014 - February 2015

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## Thursday

### Progress in improving cancer services and outcomes in England

The Public Accounts Committee has published [Progress in improving cancer services and outcomes in England](#). This report suggests that despite having a good record in improving cancer services, the Department of Health and NHS England have lost momentum in the last two years. The incidence of cancer has grown whilst the resources available have reduced. Leadership has been lost, the support for commissioners and providers to support improvement reduced, and fragmentation of accountability has made progress more difficult. The NHS needs to adapt to cope with the growing demand, but it is struggling to meet waiting time standards. While the information to support improvements in cancer services is better than it was, important gaps remain. There are also insufficient data to evaluate properly the impact of the Cancer Drugs Fund on patient outcomes.

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## Shape of Caring Review report

Health Education England (HEE) has published the Shape of Caring Review report which was commissioned by HEE in partnership with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. [Raising the bar: a review of the future education and training of registered nurses and care assistants](#) makes 34 recommendations for the future education and training of nurses and care assistants.

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## Independent sector providers caring for NHS patients: infographic

NHS Partners Network has produced an [infographic to highlight the contribution that independent sector providers make to caring for NHS patients](#)

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## National NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme

Public Health England, NHS England and Diabetes UK have announced local demonstration sites for the new [National Diabetes Prevention Programme](#). The programme aims to significantly reduce the 4 million people in England otherwise expected to have Type 2 diabetes by 2025. It is estimated that a big proportion of Type 2 diabetes could be prevented, and England will be the first country to implement a national evidence-based diabetes prevention programme at scale. Seven 'demonstrator' sites (including Bradford CCG) have been chosen to take part in the initial phase of the programme, during which they will see more patients, monitor and test their local programmes, and help co-design and implement the national programme.

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## Early Access to Medicines Scheme scientific opinion: Pembrolizumab

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has issued the first positive Early Access to Medicines Scheme (EAMS) scientific opinion. Following assessment of data on quality, safety and efficacy, a positive [scientific opinion has been awarded for pembrolizumab \(MK-3475\) used to treat advanced melanoma](#). The scientific opinion describes the risks and benefits of the medicine and the context for its use, supporting the prescriber and patient to make a decision on whether to use the medicine before its licence is approved.

**Additional link:** [MHRA press release](#)

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## Statistics

- [Provisional monthly patient reported outcome measures \(PROMs\) in England – April 2013 to March 2014](#) – March 2015
- [Provisional monthly patient reported outcome measures \(PROMs\) in England](#) – April 2014 to October 2014
- [Quarterly epidemiological commentary: mandatory MRSA, MSSA and E.coli bacteraemia, and C.difficile infection data](#) (up to October to December 2014)

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## Friday

### NICE guidance: Maintaining a healthy weight for adults and children

NICE has published [Maintaining a healthy weight and preventing excess weight gain among adults and children \(NG7\)](#). This guideline makes recommendations on behaviours that may help people maintain a healthy weight or prevent excess weight gain. The recommendations support those made in other NICE guidelines about effective interventions and activities to prevent people becoming overweight or obese. This includes interventions and activities in which weight is not the primary outcome, such as those aimed at preventing cardiovascular disease or type 2 diabetes, improving mental wellbeing or increasing active travel. The guideline covers children (after weaning) and adults. It does not cover the particular needs of women during pregnancy or people who have conditions that increase their risk of being overweight or obese. The guideline is for practitioners who use related NICE guidance and need advice on behaviours that may help people maintain a healthy weight and prevent excess weight gain.

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### Eyes on Evidence

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

- HIV testing in healthcare settings other than specialist clinics
- Allopurinol for chronic gout
- Genetic testing for fetal chromosome abnormalities
- Child safeguarding in acute healthcare services
- Local food environment and diet in children and young people
- New NICE Evidence Search
- Case study from the Quality and Productivity collection
- Changes to NICE evidence awareness products
- Evidence Updates: NICE has recently published an Evidence Update on: Feverish illness in children

**Additional link:** [NICE press release](#)

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### New fund to improve the health of homeless people

The Department of Health has announced details of how [homeless people](#) will benefit from a new £55 million fund to upgrade existing accommodation and provide new housing. The money will be used for two types of projects: the Homeless Change project will provide upgraded hostel accommodation to improve physical and mental health outcomes for rough sleepers and to help reduce A&E attendances and the Platform for Life project will create new low-rent shared accommodation for young people who want to work, but are struggling to hold down a job or attend college because of a lack of stable housing.

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## Access to hospital care

The Nuffield Trust has published [Access to hospital care: is the NHS on target?](#) This fourth policy briefing in the run-up to the General Election 2015 examines how hospital trusts in England are performing against six national targets. The paper argues against the notion that dips in performance can be attributed to a handful of poorly performing hospital trusts, and finds there has been deterioration across the board in some measures. The targets examined are: the four-hour A&E target; the 18-week target for a hospital bed (inpatient treatment); the 18-week target for an outpatient appointment; the six-week target for diagnostic tests; the two-week target for urgent cancer referral; and the 31-day target for cancer treatment.

**Additional link:** [BBC News report](#)

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## Human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme

Public Health England has published [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Vaccine Coverage in England, 2008/09 to 2013/14: A review of the full six years of the three-dose schedule](#). This report reviews first six years of the national human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation programme for adolescent girls in England. It highlights the success of the programme and the lessons that can be learned to strengthen it in future, as well as presenting UK summary data from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2014.

**Additional link:** [PHE press release](#)

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## NICE consultations

- [Drug allergy - diagnosis and management: quality standard consultation](#). Closing date for comment 13 April 2015
  - [Knee cartilage defects - autologous chondrocyte implantation](#). Closing date for comment 7 April 2015
  - [New generation cardiac CT scanners \(Aquilion ONE, Brilliance iCT, Discovery CT750 HD and Somatom Definition Flash\) for cardiac imaging in people with suspected or known coronary artery disease in whom imaging is difficult with earlier generation CT scanners](#). Closing date for comment 2 April 2015
  - [Cardiovascular risk assessment: quality standard consultation](#). Closing date for comment 8 April 2015.
  - [Lipid modification: quality standard consultation](#). Closing date for comment 8 April 2015
  - [Secondary prevention of myocardial infarction: quality standard consultation](#). Closing date for comment 8 April 2015
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## Statistics

- [Hospital Activity Data](#) - January 2015
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<i>The evidence you need</i>
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