



16/01/2015 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

Cancer services taskforce announced

NHS England has announced a new independent [taskforce to develop a five year action plan for cancer services](#) that will improve survival rates and save lives. Alongside the taskforce, NHS England announced the launch of a major early-diagnosis programme; the extension of NHS England's Commissioning through Evaluation programme to innovative radiotherapy treatment, stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR); and an improvement to the monitoring of cancer survival at local level.

Knowledge for healthcare

Health Education England has published [Knowledge for healthcare: a development framework for NHS library and knowledge services in England 2015-2020](#). The framework articulates an ambitious vision through which the outputs and expertise of healthcare library and knowledge staff will underpin improvements in patient care and safety, experience and outcomes through informed decision-making, and the spread of innovation. Following on from this framework, Health Education England will develop an action plan in conjunction with stakeholders and partners.

Care Act 2014: implications for providers

The Local Government Association has published [Guide to the Care Act 2014 and the implications for providers](#). This guide sets out the key changes which providers should be aware of and provides details of new areas and new opportunities for providers. Most of the changes take effect from April 2015 although the major funding reforms will not come into operation until April 2016.

Healthwatch survey: 2015 health and care issues

Results from a survey of local Healthwatch conducted during November and December 2014 have found that getting an appointment with a GP is the number one priority for the NHS to address over the next year. The survey asked local Healthwatch to identify the [biggest health and care issues for their local residents for 2015](#). Other key issues were for a greater focus around discharge planning and ensuring people are properly engaged and involved in discussions around changes to local services.

Bulletins

- [GP and Practice Team bulletin](#) – December 2014
 - [Health Protection Report](#) – Volume 9 (2015) – a weekly digest of health protection related news and surveillance reports from Public Health England
 - [Information Governance bulletin](#) – Issue 21 (7 January)
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Tuesday

Cancer Drugs Fund review outcome

NHS England has announced the [outcome of the review of drugs included in the NHS Cancer Drugs Fund](#) (CDF). The budget for the CDF will grow from £200 million in 2013/14, to £280 million in 2014/15, and an estimated £340 million from April 2015. The CDF review will create projected savings of approximately £80 million through a combination of negotiated price reductions and improved clinical effectiveness. Fifty nine of the eighty four most effective currently approved indications of drugs will rollover into the CDF next year, creating headroom for new drug indications that will be funded for the first time.

Urgent and emergency care: conference report

The King's Fund has published [presentations and event highlights from the Urgent and Emergency care conference](#) held on 16 December 2014. The conference provided an update on progress with the urgent and emergency care review and explored how to address the immediate challenges facing urgent and emergency care services. Presentations include: Sir Bruce Keogh looks at what still must be done to maximise the capability of the urgent care system; Dr Cliff Mann explains the College of Emergency Medicine's steps towards rebuilding emergency medicine; and Keith Willett looks at progress made since the urgent and emergency care review was published a year ago.

Innovating for Improvement: applications for funding

The Health Foundation is inviting [applications for funding to test and develop innovative ideas and approaches to improve health care delivery in the UK](#). As part of their Innovating for Improvement programme we are looking for projects that aim to improve health care delivery and/or the way people manage their own health care through the redesign of processes, practices and services. There is £1.5m available for up to 20 teams. Applications can come from any health or health and social care provider organisation in the UK where health care services are delivered free at the point of delivery. The first stage of applications closes Tuesday 10 February 2015.

Tackling the causes and effects of alcohol misuse

The Local Government Association (LGA) has published [Tackling the causes and effects of alcohol misuse](#). The transfer of public health responsibilities from the NHS to local government and Public Health England represents a unique opportunity to set out a local approach to tackling alcohol misuse. The LGA is calling on Government to help people live healthier lives and tackle the harm caused by excessive drinking and alcohol dependence by: reinvesting a fifth of existing alcohol duty in preventative measures; giving councils the power to take public health issues into account when making licensing decisions; and supporting licensing and trading standards departments to better tackle the black market in alcohol.

Local tobacco control assessment

Public Health England is offering a [£1,000 discount to councils undertaking a CLear peer assessment](#). The CLear model supports local authorities to review their current tobacco control efforts and identify actions to further reduce smoking rates. To receive a discount of £1,000 on the usual £2,500 fee for peer assessment, local authorities must apply before 31 March 2015 and must have arranged for their assessment to be completed before 30 June 2015. The £2,500 is received by the lead assessor's host organisation to cover the cost of their time, expertise and associated travel expenses.2015.

Nursing care licence exemption

The Department of Health has published the [consultation outcome on whether NHS continuing healthcare and NHS funded nursing care services should remain exempt from Monitor's licence regime](#). The department's view is that NHS continuing Healthcare and NHS funded nursing care services should be exempt from Monitor's license regime. We will be amending regulations to reflect this. The majority of respondents were in favour of continuing the exemption. However, there was a collective view that the exemption should not extend to nursing care services being designated as a Commissioner Requested Service.

Cold weather alert

NHS England has announced there is a [70% probability of severe cold weather/icy conditions](#) between 18:00 on Monday and 07:00 on Sunday in parts of England. This weather could increase the health risks to vulnerable patients and disrupt the delivery of services.

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Collection and use of patient experience information

The University of Oxford and Picker Institute have published [Development of new models for collection and use of patient experience information in the NHS](#). The aims of the project were to: develop a simple, conceptually grounded and unified model for assessing patient experience and to evaluate that model; and evaluate whether and how pathway and service line focused assessments of patients' experiences provide added value to standard organisational surveys. The study found that utilising and understanding patient experience is a consistently high priority for healthcare professionals. However national initiatives need to go further in terms of their ability to deliver more granular intelligence that can be used to improve care quality at a local level.

Diabetes state of the nation report

Diabetes UK has published [State of the Nation report: challenges for 2015 and beyond: England](#). This annual report shows there has been little overall improvement in diabetes healthcare in the past year with 40% of people with diabetes not getting the NICE recommended checks. The report also highlights how preventing Type 2 diabetes needs to be a greater priority to help reduce the burden of the condition on NHS resources in the future. It calls for clinical commissioning groups to set themselves performance improvement targets and implement diabetes action plans. The charity is also urging CCGs to ensure all people with diabetes have access to the support they need to manage their condition effectively, and that the local health system is designed to deliver this.

NICE guidance: gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

NICE has published [Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease: recognition, diagnosis and management in children and young people](#) (NG1). This guideline focuses on signs and symptoms and interventions for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) in children and young people. The guideline also advises healthcare professionals about when to think about investigations, and what treatments to offer.

Additional link: [NICE press release](#)

Urgent care benchmarking

The NHS Benchmarking Network has published the [Urgent Care Benchmarking report](#) for the 2014 cycle of the project. The report compares capacity and demand across primary care out of hours, community services, and secondary care. A wide number of areas are explored including service models, access and waiting, infrastructure, activity, workforce, finance, quality and outcomes. The report also contains detailed information on the 4-hour wait target, as well as other key performance metrics. *Please note that registration for the NHS Benchmarking Network members area is required to view this report.*

Change challenge

NHS Improving Quality, the Health Service Journal and Nursing Times have launched a [campaign to challenge the focus on top-down change](#). They want to hear about experiences and ideas on how the NHS goes about change by asking what things block or help from delivering bottom-up change. The campaign will be facilitated via a secure website, where you are invited to submit ideas and experiences anonymously. The next phase of the campaign will seek help to develop solutions for individuals and organisations to use to deliver bottom-up change.

Statistics

- [General Ophthalmic Services activity statistics](#) - Selected statistics for England, April 2014 to September 2014
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[NHS Workforce Bulletin](#) – 12 January 2014

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Guidance published aimed at reducing GP stress

The BMA has published guidance aimed at reducing stress in GPs and freeing them more time for direct patient care. The guidance [Quality first: managing workload to deliver safe patient care](#) provides practical steps practices can take to address rising workloads. It is not aimed at restricting patient services but finding ways of freeing up GPs' time for patient consultations by halting inappropriate, excessive and unresourced work.

Progress in improving cancer services and outcomes

The National Audit office has published [Progress in improving cancer services and outcomes in England](#). The report highlights that progress has been made in cancer outcomes since 2010, however, significant variations across the country remain, and the poorer outcomes for older patients and those from more deprived backgrounds, show that there is potential for improvement. The report also details the gap in outcomes between England and the European average.

Integrated care

Monitor has launched a consultation [Integrated care licence condition: draft guidance for providers of NHS-funded services](#). This draft guidance makes clear Monitor can take action if providers block efforts to deliver joined-up care for patients. It sets out core principles and gives examples of situations which might lead to action from the regulator. The consultation closes on the 13 February 2015.

Additional link: [Monitor news report](#)

Eyes on evidence

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

- Pharmacy-based screening for cardiovascular risk
- Self-management of hypertension in people at high risk of cardiovascular events
- Mental health after stopping smoking
- Alpha-blockers for expulsion of ureteral stones
- Haemoglobin thresholds for blood transfusion
- Evidence Updates: spasticity in children and young people with non-progressive brain disorders; ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage; and hyperphosphataemia in chronic kidney disease

Statistics

- [Numbers of Patients Registered at a GP Practice](#) - January 2015
 - [Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England](#) - April 2014 to September 2014
 - [Referral to Treatment waiting times statistics](#) - November 2014
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[CCG Bulletin](#) - Issue 75 15 January

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Technology Enabled Care Services resource for commissioners

NHS Commissioners has developed a [Technology Enabled Care Services \(TECS\) Resource for commissioners](#). This resource identifies practical tools that can help maximise the value of TECS for patients, carers, commissioners and the whole health economy. TECS refers to technologies such as telecare, telehealth, telemedicine, teleconsultation and self-care apps. The resource raises awareness of the wide range of TECS available and sets out how to commission, procure, implement and evaluate these types of solution effectively.

CQC: special measures for GP practices proposals

The Care Quality Commission has announced [proposals to place all GP practices that are found to be inadequate in special measures and offer a package of help to improve](#). CQC has been working with NHS England and the Royal College of General Practitioners to develop a pilot programme of intensive support to practices that are placed in special measures. The regulator of health and adult social care has set out its updated plans for how it will deal with GP practices providing inadequate care. CQC is seeking feedback on these plans before finalising the approach for April 2015. Consultation closes: 5 February 2015.

Additional link: [CQC press release](#)

What's going on in A&E?

The King's Fund has added a page to their website providing answers to key questions relating to [What's going on in A&E?](#) Questions include: have A&E waiting times risen dramatically; has the number of people

going to A&E increased; do more patients needed to be admitted to a hospital bed from A&E; and is the increase in A&E attendances mainly a result of people going to A&E when they should go somewhere else?

Mental Health Act 1983: code of practice

The Department of Health has published [Mental Health Act 1983: code of practice](#). This revised code shows professionals how to carry out their responsibilities under the Mental Health Act 1983 and guides patients, their families and carers on their rights. Following a consultation, the code was revised to take account of stakeholders' views, and reflects changes in legislation, case law, policy and professional practice since its last revision in 2008. The code of practice will come into force on 1 April 2015, subject to Parliamentary approval.

Additional link: [DH press release](#).

Dental contract reform

The Department of Health has published [Dental contract reform: prototypes](#). This document sets out how selected dental practices will test whole versions of a possible new system in a stage called 'prototyping'. The document provides information on: the background to the reform; lessons learnt from current pilot practices; proposals for prototyping; and how dental practices can apply to be a prototype. This follows an engagement exercise on reforming dental contracts findings of which are available in [Dental contract reform engagement exercise: detailed findings](#). Prototyping will start from autumn 2015.

NICE consultations

- [Accident and emergency settings consultation; guidelines consultations](#). Closing date for comments: 12 February 2015. Additional link: [NICE press release](#)
- [Occupational therapy and physical activity interventions to promote the mental wellbeing of older people in primary care and residential care](#): Review 2 – January 2015. Closing date for comments: 2 February 2015.
- [Increasing the updated of HIV testing among people at higher risk of exposure: scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 10 February 2015.
- [Bacterial meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia: surveillance review proposal](#). Closing date for comments: 23 January 2015.

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Ebola: one year on

One year after the first Ebola cases started to surface in Guinea, the World Health Organisation has published a [series of 14 papers which take an in-depth look at West Africa's first epidemic of Ebola virus disease](#).

During the year, Public Health England has regularly added new [guidance, resources and information for professionals to the Ebola pages of its website](#).

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<i>The evidence you need</i>
