



20/02/2015 Health News Weekly Digest

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

Contents

[Monday](#)

[Thursday](#)

[Tuesday](#)

[Friday](#)

[Wednesday](#)

Monday

Helping carers to stay in paid employment

Ministers from the Department of Health together with Government Equalities Office and the Department for Work and Pensions have [launched a series of pilots](#) exploring ways to help carers balance work with their caring responsibilities. The nine pilot areas will explore how technology can be combined with professional support from the local authority and the assistance of informal networks of friends, neighbours and time bank volunteers to ease the pressure of caring. One of the pilot's aims to monitor cared for adults by telephone every day at an agreed time, and then contacts the carer by email or text to confirm that they do not need assistance. The nine pilot areas include: North Tyneside; Bury; Gateshead Northamptonshire; Cheshire West; North Somerset; South Gloucestershire; Staffordshire and Stoke; and Sefton.

New mental health standards

NHS England has published [Guidance to support the introduction of access and waiting time standards for mental health services in 2015/16](#). This guidance sets out for CCGs, the case for change in four areas and highlights the expectations of local commissioners for delivery during the year ahead, working with providers and other partners. It details how commissioners and providers can begin to prepare for implementation of the new early intervention in psychosis and liaison mental health standards. It describes how plans need to be submitted, and how local commissioners will meet the new improved access to psychological therapies (IAPT) standard for people with depression and anxiety disorders. It also provides updates on funding for eating disorders services.

NICE - Medtech Innovation briefings

NICE has published four new Medtech Innovation Briefings the details are as follows:

- [The AutoPulse non-invasive cardiac support pump for cardiopulmonary resuscitation](#) MIB18
 - [The Arrow OnControl powered bone marrow biopsy system for bone marrow aspiration and biopsy](#) MIB19
 - [The ZedScan as an adjunct to colposcopy in women with suspected cervical intra-epithelial neoplasia](#). MIB20
 - [The SpyGlass direct visualisation system for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures during endoscopy of the biliary system](#) MIB21
-

New 'buddy scheme' launched

NHS Improving Quality is launching a '[buddy scheme](#)' to support some NHS trusts in England to improve cancer patients' experience of care. The scheme will see trusts that were most highly rated in the Cancer Patient Experience Survey provide support to trusts where patient feedback identified room for improvement. The aim of the scheme is to spread and accelerate innovative practice via peer to peer support and learning. It is hoped this will lead to a reduction in national variation in cancer patients' experiences of care. All the trusts involved have volunteered to take part in the improvement programme.

Scarlet fever notifications continue to increase

The latest [Public Health England infection report](#) is showing a high number of scarlet fever notifications across England, with 1265 new cases reported in the first 6 weeks of 2015. Increases in scarlet fever are normal at this time of year with the high season being between March and April. However, the numbers of cases currently being reported are above what is typical for this time of the year. Whilst this might reflect heightened awareness and improved diagnosis and/or notification practices, the high numbers of cases currently being notified are of concern.

[Additional link:](#) PHE press release

NICE consultations

- [Atrial fibrillation: quality standard consultation](#). Closing date for comment 13 March 2015
- [Psychosis with coexisting substance misuse](#). Closing date for comment 27 February 2015
- [Intrapartum care: topic engagement exercise](#). Closing date for comment 24 February 2015

Statistics

- [Assuring transformation data](#) – Quarter Ending 31 December 2014

[Back to top](#)

Tuesday

Exercise - the miracle cure and the doctors role in prescribing it

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges has published its latest report [Exercise - the miracle cure and the doctor's role in prescribing it](#). It focuses on the full extent exercise could have in preventing disease and treating many conditions. While savings to the NHS are incalculable, it highlights that many billions of pounds are being spent on treating diseases like type two diabetes which could be prevented if people were to undertake just thirty minutes of physical activity five times a week. The report argues that physical activity need not mean joining an expensive gym or hiring a personal trainer. Instead it calls on doctors to encourage their patients to make a start with regular activities that are free and easy to do.

Additional link: [RCGP press release](#)

Equality analysis: charges to overseas visitors

The Department of Health has published [Equality analysis: the National Health Service \(Charges to Overseas Visitors\) Regulations 2015](#). This policy paper builds on the equality analysis undertaken in 2013 and published with the Department of Health response to the consultation in December 2013. For the purpose of having due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, this equality analysis assesses the impact of the changes introduced by the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015 on overseas visitors with any of the protected characteristics, in comparison with the rest of the overseas visitor and ordinarily resident population.

Additional link: [DH press release](#)

Expert Patients

The Reform Research Trust has published [Expert patients](#). This report explores how patients can be more engaged in their health and more involved in their healthcare. The report argues greater patient engagement could both improve outcomes and reduce costs. It estimates that stronger patient engagement could lead to savings of nearly £2 billion by 2020-21, i.e. around 10 per cent of the NHS England target saving. Innovators outside the NHS are already giving patients the opportunity to engage in their health and care.

Standardised packaging of tobacco products: draft regulations

The Department of Health has published the outcome of its consultation on [Standardised packaging of tobacco products: draft regulations](#). The report summarises responses received and the main themes that emerged. Final decision making on this policy took into account HM Revenue and Customs' report of its assessment of the potential impact of standardised tobacco packaging on the illicit market, the final stage Impact Assessment and the Equality Analysis that were updated following the 2014 consultation.

Additional link: [BBC news report](#)

Bulletin

- [NICE Public Health Awareness Bulletin](#) – Issue 34 February 2015
-

Statistics

- [Commissioner-based Cancer Waiting Times](#) for Q3 2014-15
 - [Provider-based Cancer Waiting Times](#) for Q3 2014-15
 - [Quality Outcomes Framework \(QOF\), Recorded Dementia Diagnoses](#), April 2014 - January 2015
-

Wednesday

Implementing the NHS five year forward view

The King's Fund has published [Implementing the NHS five year forward view: aligning policies with the plan](#). This report calls for fundamental changes to how health services are commissioned, paid for and regulated to deliver the vision of the NHS five year forward view. The paper warns that without significant changes to policy and new approaches to NHS leadership the vision for the future of the NHS could fail to deliver on its ambitions. The paper makes practical recommendations on what to do now to remove barriers to developing new care models and to support their implementation. Looking ahead, it argues that national leadership of the highest order will be needed to meet the challenges inherent in delivering these changes.

Resistance to antimicrobial medicines

NICE has proposed measures for health and social care providers to help tackle antimicrobial resistance. NICE's draft medicines practice guideline on [antimicrobial stewardship](#) is intended to help health and social care commissioners, providers and prescribers promote and monitor the sensible use of antimicrobials to preserve their future effectiveness.

Additional links: [NICE press release](#) [BBC News report](#)

NICE local government briefing: Older people in care homes

NICE has published a local government briefing [Older people in nursing homes \(LGB25\)](#). This briefing summarises NICE's key recommendations for local authorities and partner organisations on the health and care of older people in care homes. It also highlights relevant quality standards. It is particularly relevant to health and wellbeing boards, scrutiny panels, councillors and adult social care commissioners.

Adult safeguarding and domestic abuse

The local government association has published [Adult safeguarding and domestic abuse: a guide to support practitioners and managers: Second edition](#). This guide aims to help staff to give better informed and more effective support to people who need an adult safeguarding service because of domestic abuse. It addresses situations where an adult who has care and support needs is being harmed or abused by an intimate partner or close family member in a way which could also be defined as domestic abuse.

Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund

The Department of Health and the Homes and Communities Agency have announced applications are now open for phase 2 of the [Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund](#) (CASSH). Specialist housing developers and providers are being invited to bid for a share of an additional fund of up to £155 million to develop accommodation for adults who need support in order to live independently. This phase of the fund will prioritise applications for housing for people with learning disabilities or mental health issues.

Statistics

[Breast Screening Programme](#), England - 2013-14

[Back to top](#)

Thursday

Rationing in the NHS

The Nuffield Trust has published [Rationing in the NHS](#), the second in a series of briefings published in the run up to the general election. This briefing provides an overview of the current difficulties in making decisions about rationing healthcare in England, and setting out some of the challenges faced by policy makers in the future. It warns policymakers and commissioners not to overestimate the ability of rationing approaches to reduce NHS expenditure. The briefing argues that despite the lack of public support for rationing decisions, there is room to improve the level of transparency in the system. It suggests a greater use of public consultation and better communication about local commissioning decisions.

Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance annual report

The Department of Health has published [Advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infections 5th annual report 2013-2014](#). The report highlights that resistance to antimicrobials (antibiotics, antifungals and antivirals) continues to increase. The report stresses that despite increased public awareness of the danger of antibiotic resistance, the amount of antibiotics being prescribed in the UK continues to rise. It concludes that there is a clear need to educate the public about using antibiotics only when they are really needed, and a need to ensure that doctors always prescribe according to professional guidance.

First CCGs approved to take on commissioning of GP services

NHS England has approved the [first set of Clinical Commissioning Groups that will take on responsibility for commissioning the majority of GP services](#) from April this year. Sixty four CCGs across the country have been approved to take on greater 'delegated' commissioning responsibility for GP services with the possibility that others may follow. For CCGs that haven't been approved at this stage, NHS England will continue to provide support to help them achieve the commissioning model that works best for them.

New tariff option for providers for 2015/16

The Chief Executives of both NHS England and Monitor have written to providers of NHS-funded services setting out a [new enhanced tariff option for 2015-16](#). The amount is worth up to £500m more to providers than the original package that was consulted on last November, which was prior to extra funding being made available to the NHS in December's autumn statement.

Additional link: [Monitor press release](#)

Chlamydia screening

Public Health England has published [Monitoring tool to measure rate of re-testing following a positive chlamydia diagnosis](#). The National Chlamydia Screening Programme has updated its recommended case management for those testing positive for chlamydia to include routine offer of re-testing, around three months after treatment. This excel tool has been developed for chlamydia screening programme areas to monitor their local chlamydia re-testing rates. It can be used to inform local decision making to assist service improvement.

Online resources for GPs treating dementia patients

The General Medical Council has collated a collection of [tools and resources to help GP's provide better care for older people with dementia and mental health issues](#). The resources are part of the GMC's online resource which supports doctors treating older patients. New updates to the resource include a 'mythbusters' leaflet tackling five common myths related to treating patients with dementia.

Additional link: [GMC press release](#)

Statistics

- [NHS Outcomes Framework Indicators](#) - February 2015 release
- [Bed availability and occupancy](#) - Quarter ending December 2014
- [Direct Access Audiology waiting times](#) - December 2014
- [Mixed Sex Accommodation Breaches](#) - January 2015
- [Suicides in the United Kingdom](#) - 2013 Registrations

[Back to top](#)

Friday

Preventing suicide

The Department of Health has published [Preventing suicide in England: Two years on, second annual report on the cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives](#). This report summarises the latest trends, research and developments on suicide prevention in England. The report calls on services to be more ambitious about suicide prevention, and challenge the assumption that suicide is inevitable. It highlights three areas in England that have already adopted a zero suicide ambition and outlines how services can improve by adopting this new attitude and effective interventions.

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

The Department of Health has added [three overview factsheets](#) to the suite of documents published in August 2014 relating to the planning and commissioning of public health services for 0-5 year olds transfers from the NHS to local authorities in October 2015. The three factsheets are as follows:

- Overview 1: National Health Visiting Programme
- Overview 2: Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership Services
- Overview 3: Changes to how 0-5 services are commissioned

Lithium Care Pathway

NICE has added [The Impact of Introducing a Lithium Care Pathway](#) to its shared learning database. This audit highlights the impact of introducing a Li care pathway for patients over 65 years attending an old age psychiatry service at South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

National review to assess needs for veterans' mental health

NHS England has announced a charitable grant will fund a [national review to assess needs for veterans' mental health](#). The Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT's), has awarded £75,000 to fund the systematic review which aims to: understand the health needs of veterans, with a particular focus on mental health and the interactions between mental health and other health needs. It will also look at the gaps in the current health needs assessment evidence base and how these might be addressed at local and national levels.

Consultation on NICE Indicators

NICE has launched a consultation on [potential new indicators for the NICE Quality and Outcomes Framework \(QOF\) and CCG Outcomes Indicator Set \(OIS\) indicator menus](#). Separate consultation documents have been issued for the QOF and CCG OIS indicators. The QOF document outlines 12 potential new indicators whilst the CCG OIS document outlines 28 new potential indicators. All comments must be received by Monday 23 February 2015. The NICE Indicator Advisory Committee will publish the recommended indicators in August 2015.

NICE consultations

- [Rifaximin for preventing episodes of overt hepatic encephalopathy: final appraisal determination](#). Closing date for comments: 5 March 2015
- [Antimicrobial Stewardship: guideline consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 17 March 2015

Bulletins

- [NHS Workforce Bulletin](#) - 16 February 2015
 - [Winter health watch summary](#) - 19 February 2015
-

This bulletin is produced by The Rotherham Foundation Trust Library and Knowledge Service. This issue draws from the Yorkshire and Humber Commissioning Support Daily Health Bulletin 2nd – 6th February.

Please contact us for copies of articles and documents mentioned in this bulletin.

If you would like to subscribe to receive the bulletin on a daily basis please contact the TRFT Library and Knowledge Service using the contact details below.

Copies of [previous bulletins](#) can be viewed online via our [website](#)

Library and Knowledge Service

The Rotherham Foundation Trust

Oak House

Tel: 01709 302096

knowledge.service@rothgen.nhs.uk

Find out how we can help: <http://www.rotherhamhospital.nhs.uk/lks>

Search our catalogue: <http://rotherham.nhslibraries.com>

Follow us on Twitter: [@RotherhamNHSLib](https://twitter.com/RotherhamNHSLib) 

The evidence you need