



06/03/2015 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

Patient access to general practice

The Royal College of General Practitioners has published [Patient access to general practice: ideas and challenges from the front line](#). This paper explores some of the initiatives being tested by GP practices which are pioneering new approaches to providing patients with access to their services. It examines the solutions and challenges which are emerging. The report findings are relevant to individual clinicians and practices, but also have implications for commissioners and policy makers at both a national and local level. The starting point for this paper is that there is no single definition of good access to general practice, and no one-size-fits-all solution that all practices should implement.

Additional link: [RCGP Press release](#)

Building the foundations for improvement

The Health Foundation has published a new learning report [Building the foundations for improvement: how five UK trusts built quality improvement capability at scale within their organisations](#). The report looks at how five UK trusts built quality improvement capability at scale in their organisations. It provides an insight into how and why the trusts embarked on their improvement journeys, the impact they achieved and the challenges they encountered. It draws out some key lessons from the trusts improvement journeys which will be useful for other organisations that are considering building improvement capability at scale. It also provides a useful checklist of points for organisations to consider before planning, designing and delivering an improvement capability building programme.

New patient safety reporting form

A new e-form has been launched by NHS England to enable general practice staff to [report patient safety incidents](#) to the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) the national patient safety incident database. The e-form, which has been developed in consultation with general practice staff, can be completed in a matter of minutes, with many questions requiring quick and simple answers. Practice staff can use the form to report anything from administration errors to incidents relating to sepsis. Practices can choose to include their practice code or can submit a report entirely anonymously. Patient identifiable information is also not required.

'Smarter' procurement

NHS organisations will now be able to [buy supplies more smartly, cheaply and efficiently](#), and achieve better commercial outcomes, owing to new regulations implementing the EU Directive on Public Procurement in the UK. The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 will broaden the possibilities for NHS bodies to conduct negotiations with bidders during the procurement process and clarify how to conduct market consultations prior to going out to tender.

Social media campaigns in the NHS

NHS Employers have published [A Guide to running social media campaigns in the NHS](#). It aims to help NHS communications team to get the most out of using social media in communications campaigns. The guide covers three core areas of social media campaigns: alignment with the organisation's objectives and audiences, content and consistency.

NHS Energy Efficiency

The Department of Health has published [NHS Energy Efficiency Fund report](#). It details outcomes from 117 energy efficiency projects delivered through 2013 to 2014 in 48 NHS organisations. The aim of the NHS Energy Efficiency Fund is to reduce NHS estate operating costs. This is done by investing in selected energy efficiency projects and then reinvesting any savings back into frontline care.

Bulletins

- [NHS Campaigns & Communications Bulletin](#) - Issue 21
 - [PHE bulletin](#) - 27 February 2015
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Tuesday

Commissioning for value packs: integrated care pathways

NHS England has published [Integrated care pathway packs](#) for each of the 211 Clinical Commissioning Groups in England. These are part of the range of Commissioning for Value packs published by NHS England since October 2013. The packs seek to demonstrate the extent to which complex patients utilise resources across programmes of care and the urgent care system and are designed to support CCGs with local discussions and commissioning discussions.

Additional link: [NHS England press release](#)

Accelerating change in the NHS

The Health Foundation has published [Constructive comfort: accelerating change in the NHS](#). This report asks how best to design national policy on the NHS to accelerate improvements to health care. The report concludes that national bodies need to take the following action: immediately develop a shared view of how change happens in the NHS and what national bodies should do to catalyse it; develop the current blend of organisational levers to best support change; invest far more in support for change, starting with a coherent improvement strategy for the NHS in England; and focus action on people who work in the NHS.

Additional link: [Health Foundation press release](#)

Health and wellbeing website for young people

Public Health England has launched the [Rise Above website](#) which offers help for young people on how to deal with personal and societal issues. The website aims to build emotional resilience in individuals aged 11 to 16 by equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to make informed decisions, and help deal with the pressures of growing up. It also encourages conversations about the key health and wellbeing issues that affect teens and young people. The website tackles topics such as puberty, relationships, alcohol, self-harm, smoking, contraceptive choices, drugs, body confidence, peer pressure and mental health.

Additional link: [PHE press release](#)

Our prescription for the election

In the autumn of 2014, twenty one organisations representing health and care charities, local government, NHS staff and leaders published the 2015 Challenge Manifesto. They have now issued a subsequent paper [The 2015 Challenge: our prescription for the election](#) which sets out for politicians and national policymaking bodies the organisations' shared analysis of progress so far on the changes asked for, and the immediate next steps required during the election period and before summer 2015.

Innovation in care

The Good Governance Institute and Care England have published a white paper exploring innovation in residential and home care. [Innovations in care](#) aims to inform debates around the future of care services across the UK and covers three key areas of care: accommodation and facilities, commissioning and strategic organisation, and the delivery of care. It outlines some of the key barriers to innovations and suggests ways in which these can be overcome.

Funding for putting the Care Act into practice

The Department of Health has issued a Local Authority Circular (LAC) giving advice on introducing the cap on care costs and the appeals system as part of the Care Act. [LAC\(DH\)20152: care and support: getting ready for the cap on care costs – funding to support implementation](#) also gives advice on how local authorities might think about using the additional £146 million of funding provided from April 2015 to plan and prepare for the final set of changes to fully implement the Care Act.

Statistics

- [Statistics on obesity, physical activity and diet](#) – England, 2015

Additional link: [HSCIC press release](#)

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Wednesday

Investigation report into Morecambe Bay

The Independent investigation report into maternity and neonatal services at University Hospitals Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust has been published. [The report of the Morecambe Bay Investigation](#) found 20 instances of significant or major failings of care at Furness General Hospital, associated with 3 maternal deaths and the deaths of 16 babies. It concludes that different clinical care would have been expected to prevent the death of 1 mother and 11 babies. There are some actions that will be implemented immediately. The government will examine the other recommendations in detail before providing a full response.

Additional link: [DH press release](#)

National reviews: maternity care / professional codes

Following the publication of the Morecambe Bay report NHS England has announced details of two reviews:

- The [Review of the commissioning of NHS maternity services](#) will assess current maternity care provision and consider how services should be developed to meet the changing needs of women and babies. The review is expected to report by the end of the year. Terms of reference are now available.

A review will also be carried out of [professional codes of both doctors and nurses](#). This review will be led by Sir Bruce Keogh who has been asked to ensure that the right incentives are in place to prevent people covering up instead of reporting and learning from mistakes

NICE guidance

NICE has published [Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes](#) (NG5). This guideline offers best practice advice on the care of all people who are using medicines and also those who are receiving suboptimal benefit from medicines. It updates and replaces recommendation 1.4.2 in the NICE guideline on medicines adherence. It also replaces PSG001 Technical patient safety solutions for medicines reconciliation on admission of adults to hospital.

Additional link: [NICE press release](#)

NICE has updated [Depression in children and young people: identification and management in primary, community and secondary care](#) (CG28). Recommendations on psychological therapies and antidepressants have been added to and updated in sections 1.5 and 1.6.

Child sexual exploitation pathway: school nursing service

The Department of Health has published [Helping school nurses to tackle child exploitation](#). This child sexual exploitation pathway document aims to consolidate best practice by: helping practitioners to recognise child sexual exploitation and to understand its effects on health and wellbeing; summarising the evidence base, including the types of child sexual exploitation, its prevalence and consequences; and identifying the school nurse role at different levels of service and outlining a core offer from the school nursing service.

Congenital Heart Disease review: consultation responses

NHS England has announced the publication of the independent report [Consultation on draft standards and service specifications for the congenital heart disease service](#) by Dialogue by Design. This report provides a summary of the responses to NHS England's consultation on the proposed congenital heart disease (CHD) standards and service specifications. This consultation took place between September and December 2014. The purpose of the consultation was to gather the views of stakeholders, patients and the public on the new standards for improving the experience of care and treatment of congenital heart disease.

Statistics

- [Clostridium difficile infection: monthly data by attributed clinical commissioning group](#) – January 2014 – January 2015
 - [Clostridium difficile infection: monthly data by NHS acute trust](#) – January 2014 – January 2015
 - [MSSA bacteraemia: monthly data by attributed clinical commissioning group](#) – January 2014 – January 2015
 - [MSSA bacteraemia: monthly data by NHS acute trust](#) - January 2014 – January 2015
 - [Escherichia coli \(E.coli\) bacteraemia: monthly data by attributed clinical commissioning group](#) – January 2014 – January 2015
 - [Escherichia coli \(E.coli\) bacteraemia: monthly data by NHS acute trust](#) - January 2014 – January 2015
 - [MRSA bacteraemia: monthly data by post infection review assignment](#) - January 2014 – January 2015
 - [MRSA bacteraemia: monthly data by attributed clinical commissioning group](#) - January 2014 – January 2015
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Informed

The latest issue of [Informed](#) (issue 26) includes the following news items:

- NHS England and Greater Manchester announce shared plan for £6billion health and social care funding
- General practice patient safety reporting form
- Proposals for more efficient and responsive access to medicines for patients
- Commissioning for Value – integrated care pathways packs
- Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal

No Smoking Day – 11 March 2015

Thursday

Funding of older people's homecare

The United Kingdom Homecare Association (UKHCA) has published [The homecare deficit: a report on the funding of older people's homecare across the United Kingdom](#). This report provides a snapshot of the prices paid for older people's homecare by councils in Great Britain and the Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland during a sample week in September 2014. Using data obtained under freedom of information legislation, the report provides visual and numerical data to allow comparisons at a national, regional and local authority level across the UK. It highlights the vast majority of councils pay well below UKHCA's Minimum Price for Homecare - the rate necessary to run a sustainable homecare service which complies fully with National Minimum Wage, including careworkers' travel time.

Additional link: [UKHCA press release](#)

Patient choice in adult hearing services

Monitor has published [NHS adult hearing services in England: exploring how choice is working for patients](#). This report presents findings from its consultation examining how having a choice of hearing loss services impacts on patients. The project aimed to: understand how choice has been working in relation to adult hearing services funded by the NHS; understand whether current arrangements serve the interests of patients effectively and whether there is scope for improvement; and offer insights for commissioners deciding whether and how to introduce choice. Monitor found that the vast majority of people treated for hearing loss want to choose where and how they get NHS services. However, only 1 in 10 NHS patients treated for hearing loss is offered a choice of who provides their care.

Additional link: [Monitor press release](#)

NICE guidance: excess winter deaths and morbidity and health risks associated with cold homes

NICE has published [Excess winter deaths and morbidity and health risks associated with cold homes](#) (NG6). This guideline makes recommendations on how to reduce the risk of death and ill health associated with living in a cold home. The aim is to help: reduce preventable excess winter death rates; improve health and wellbeing among vulnerable groups; reduce pressure on health and social care services; reduce 'fuel poverty' and the risk of fuel debt or being disconnected from gas and electricity supplies; and Improve the energy efficiency of homes.

Implementing the NHS Health Check Programme

The Local Government Association has published [Checking the health of the nation: implementing the NHS Health Check Programme](#). This document contains case studies setting out how five local authorities are delivering the NHS Health Check programme.

Personal health budgets: sustainable finance

NHS Confederation has published [Getting the sums right: how to sustainably finance personal health budgets](#). This briefing is aimed at leaders and managers in clinical commissioning groups and providers who are either looking to lead implementation of personal health budgets beyond continuing healthcare or considering how to respond to the implications of expanding personal health budgets. It sets out the learning from a workshop to identify and allocate funds for personal health budgets from within existing budgets, and manage the risk of double-running costs. It makes recommendations for commissioners, providers and national policymakers.

Country-level cost effectiveness thresholds

The Centre for Health Economics has published [Country-level cost effectiveness thresholds: initial estimates and the need for further research](#) (CHE Research Paper 109). Healthcare systems in low- and middle-income countries face considerable population healthcare needs with markedly fewer resources than those in developed countries. Cost-effectiveness thresholds (CETs) represent central measures of value in healthcare systems and can consequently inform a wide range of investment decisions (related to choices of clinical interventions, demand-side measures, provider payments etc.). This paper presents initial estimates for country-level CETs and highlights the need for further research.

End of life care: data collection consultations

Public Health England has launched two consultations relating to end of life care data collection.

- [National information standard for end of life care coordination](#) (ISB1580) ask questions on proposed changes to the national information standard which identifies the core content to be held in the Electronic Palliative Care Coordination Systems (EPaCCS) and aims to support communication and co-ordination of end of life care between the professionals and services delivering care.
- [Specialist palliative care: proposed data collection](#) asks for feedback on proposals to introduce a national individual-level data collection from specialist palliative care services. The proposed data collection includes: activity; demographic; and clinical outcomes data. The data collection supports improved services for people at the end of life and their families.

Both consultations close on 27 March 2015.

Bulletins

- [Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin](#) – February 2015
- [#HEElife – latest news from Health Education England](#) – March 2015
- [SCIE ebulletin](#) (Social Care Institute for Excellence) – 4 March 2015

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Friday

What's behind the A&E 'crisis'?

The Nuffield Trust has published its third policy briefing in the run up to the General Election 2015 which examines the reasons behind England's A&E 'crisis' and warns that the emphasis on the four-hour waiting time target has become disproportionate. [What's behind the A&E 'crisis'?](#) explores the way that performance is measured in A&E and argues that new approaches to performance management, with other measures given equal status to the four-hour target, should be adopted. The report argues that the cause of A&E pressures has been misunderstood, and long-term trends and immediate causes conflated, with too much focus on the 2004 GP contract, NHS 111 and the gradual increase in admissions, rather than broader issues of hospital discharge and patient flow. The briefing also presents the latest data on A&E.

Public Health England's grant to local authorities

The Public Accounts Committee has published [Public Health England's grant to local authorities](#). This report indicates that many local authorities do not yet receive a proportion of public health funding that fairly reflects their needs. Nearly one third of 152 local authorities currently receive funding that is more than 20% above or below what would be their fair share. Thirteen local authorities currently remain more than 20% below their target funding proportions. Authorities are also locked into contractual commitments, for example on sexual health, which limits their ability to respond to local priorities. The Department has not announced longer term plans for making public health funding allocations more equitable although it has asked the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation to review the public health funding formula.

Healthy Child Programme: rapid review

Public Health England has published [Rapid review to update evidence for the healthy child programme 0-5](#). The aim of the review is to synthesise relevant systematic review level evidence about 'what works' in key areas of the Healthy Child Programme including: parental mental health; smoking; alcohol/drug misuse; intimate partner violence; preparation and support for childbirth and the transition to parenthood; attachment; parenting support; unintentional injury in the home; safety from abuse and neglect; nutrition and obesity prevention; and speech, language and communication. In addition, the review seeks to draw out key messages in relation to: identifying families in need of additional support; the delivery/effective

implementation of interventions at the programme/service level and individual practitioner level; workforce skills and training; and the economic value/cost benefits of the HCP, including both health and wider societal costs.

Evidence summary: new medicines - asthma

NICE has published a new medicines evidence summary [Asthma: tiotropium \(Spiriva Respimat\)](#) (ESNM55). 'Evidence summaries: new medicines' provide a summary of the published evidence for selected new medicines, or for existing medicines with new indications or formulations, that are considered to be of significance to the NHS. The strengths and weaknesses of the relevant evidence are critically reviewed within the summary, but the summaries are not formal NICE guidance

CCGs approved for joint commissioning of GP services

Over a third of [Clinical Commissioning Groups \(CCGs\) have been approved to jointly commission GP services with NHS England](#). This follows the announcement last week of the first CCGs approved to take on greater delegated responsibility for GP services and means that from 1 April, over 70 percent of CCGs (a total of 150 to date) will take on greater commissioning responsibility for GP services. The 87 CCGs have been approved for joint commissioning subject to constitutional amendments and the signing of terms of reference by the 31 March 2015

Specialised services recommendations

The Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group (PSSAG) has published its recommendations to ministers on which health services should be considered to be specialised and be nationally commissioned by NHS England, rather than locally commissioned by clinical commissioning groups. [Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group: recommendations to ministers](#) sets out the proposals considered by PSSAG at its May and September 2014 meetings, and outlines the Group's recommendations for each of the 23 proposals

NICE consultations

- [CG100 Alcohol-use disorders – diagnosis and clinical management of alcohol-related physical complications: surveillance review proposal](#). Closing date for comments: 20 March 2015.
- [CG115 Alcohol-use disorders – diagnosis, assessment and management of harmful drinking and alcohol dependence: surveillance review proposal](#). Closing date for comments: 20 March 2015.
- [Coeliac disease: guideline consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 21 April 2015.
- [Gallstone disease: topic engagement exercise](#). Closing date for comments: 20 March 2015.

- [Maternal and child nutrition – improving nutritional status: quality standards consultation](#) Closing date for comments: 7 April 2015.
- [Workplace health: policies and approaches to support employees with disabilities and long-term conditions: scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 7 April 2015.
- [Home care: guideline consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 16 April 2015.
- [Multiple sclerosis: topic engagement exercise](#). Closing date for comments: 18 March 2015.
- [Transcranial direct current stimulation \(TDCS\) for depression: consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 31 March 2015.
- [Drug misuse prevention: scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 1 April 2015.
- [Hepatitis C\(chronic\) – ledipasvir-sofosbuvir \(ID742\): appraisal consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 23 March 2015.
- [Depression in adults \(update\): scope consultation](#). Closing date for comments: 30 March 2015.

[Workplace health- older employees: call for evidence 2015](#). Closing date for comments: 37 March 2015.

Statistics

- [Inequality in health life expectancy at birth by national deciles of area deprivation](#) - England 2011-13
- [NHS injury costs recovery scheme](#) – April 2014 to March 2015
- [HES-DID \(Diagnostic Imaging Dataset\) data linkage report – provisional summary statistics](#) - April 2014 to October 2014
- [HES-MHLDDS \(Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Data Set\) data linkage report –summary statistics](#) - November 2014

Bulletins

- [NHS Workforce Bulletin](#) – 2 March 2015
- [NHS Managers’ Bulletin](#) – 5 March 2015
- [Liaison and Diversion Bulletin](#) – February 2015
- [Vaccine update](#) – Issue 226, March 2015

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<i>The evidence you need</i>
