Education and Training Policy for the Health Workforce

Issue: September 2009

This newsletter is produced on behalf of NESC by the Innovations and Development Team and provides a series of links to a selection of relevant and interesting articles issued over the past month. Copyright lies with the originator and not with NESC. Please click on the title links to access the full article or further information.

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This issue was produced by Olga Zolle

General – In the News

Future of Independent Sector Treatment Centers
Under the changes set out, each contract will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and new services will be commissioned by the local Primary Care Trust where they are designed to meet local needs, provide value for money and benefit patients in that community. Primary Care Trusts are already responsible for procuring a broad range of services from NHS and independent sector providers on behalf of local patients.

Study into Female Genital Mutilation
The study aims to increase the Government’s knowledge about women and girls affected by Female Genital Mutilation in England. It will also look at how the training needs of key health professionals could be improved and provide vital information for the development of appropriate sexual and reproductive health services. The findings will inform the forthcoming cross-government strategy on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

New council champions equality and diversity
In line with the commitments in Lord Darzi’s review “High Quality Care for All” and the NHS Constitution, the Council will provide clear leadership on equality and diversity issues at the highest level.
Fast tracked research to fight swine flu

Fourteen projects costing £2.25 million have been fast tracked by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) on behalf of the Department of Health for urgent national swine flu research. The priority studies will be launched this week and will provide vital clinical and scientific evidence that will inform the Government's response to the virus in the coming months.

Chemotherapy Services in England: Ensuring quality and safety

The final report from the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group takes account of the responses received during the consultation period. The report aims to bring about a step change in the quality and safety of chemotherapy services for adult patients with either solid cancers or haematological malignancies and many of the recommendations are applicable in the care of children and young people. It highlights the need to improve both elective chemotherapy services and acute oncology services. Experts have recommended that all hospitals with an A&E department should provide acute oncology services to ensure the correct treatment of emergency cancer patients and those who suffer severe side effects from chemotherapy. The recommendation forms part of new best practice to improve the quality and safety of chemotherapy published by the National Chemotherapy Advisory Group (NCAG). All hospitals with an emergency department asked to provide acute oncology services

Regulator publishes closed mortality outlier alerts for the first time

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) published on its website details of all mortality alerts it has reviewed and closed since its mortality outlier programme began in 2007.

Green light given to develop proton therapy services in England

England has taken its first steps to providing an advanced form of radiotherapy to patients, which can cure tumours without damaging vital organs. The National Specialised Commissioning Team (NSCT) has been asked by the Department of Health to hold a competition to identify possible providers of proton beam services in England. Patients who need this treatment currently have to go abroad to receive it.

Consultation on the Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for health and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance; and Prevention and control of infection in care homes (a supporting guidance document)

This consultation is required due to changes introduced under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 involving the recent establishment of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the introduction of a new registration framework for all providers of regulated activities in health care and adult social care in England.

Improving access to child and adolescent mental health services

This joint DH/DCSF guide states how the 18 weeks referral to treatment standard, (NHS Operating Framework for 2009/10) applies to non-emergency consultant-led CAMHS services and pathways. This guide does not set any new standards or targets. It shows how accessible low-wait CAMHS can be achieved and provides good practice examples.
New service hands more power to the patient
As patients now have the right to choose when and where they receive hospital treatment, a new web-based scorecard is now available at www.nhs.uk to give people all the information they need to make the right choice of hospital for them.

New Interactive Website
A new interactive website to help parents and carers keep their babies healthy, happy and safe is being rolled out nationally today by the Department of Health. NHS Baby LifeCheck is designed to provide information and advice to mums, dads and carers of babies aged five to eight months.

www.babylifecheck.co.uk

This report gives the final results of around 93,000 responses to the seventeenth national patient choice survey commissioned to assess the implementation of choice at PCT level. The series of surveys, conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Department, monitor patient awareness of choice and recall of having been offered a choice of hospital for their first outpatient appointment. They were designed to provide a national overview of choice and summary results at PCT level (initially bi-monthly and now quarterly) and generally have an effective response rate around 30%. This is the last in the current series of National Patient Choice Surveys.

Independent report published on organ allocation system for Non-UK residents
An independent report to clarify the rules on organ transplants for NHS patients and non-UK EU residents was published by Elisabeth Buggins, former Chair of the Organ Donation Taskforce.

Pandemic influenza toolkit for NHS ambulance services in England
This toolkit is part of the Department of Health’s (DH) programme for improving and enhancing the preparedness within NHS ambulance services for managing pandemic influenza. The aim is to support ambulance trusts in the delivery of an operational response. The body of the toolkit provides a summary statement of individual topics and signposts to further information, websites and material published by DH.

CQC says health services are responding to tragedy of Shipman with better monitoring of controlled drugs
The Care Quality Commission (CQC) published a report detailing significant progress in implementing regulations introduced in response to the Shipman Inquiry, to monitor controlled drugs. The Shipman Inquiry found that ineffective monitoring had allowed Dr Harold Shipman to obtain large quantities of diamorphine, which he used to kill at least 15 and possibly up to 200 patients.
Keep on the road for longer
This leaflet gives details of current entitlements and services you may be able to access, and when. We have concentrated on those issues that older people tell us are most important in helping them stay well and active. Bringing together this information is part of the Department of Health’s contribution to the government’s ageing strategy.

King’s Fund Report: Assessing Complementary Practice

Despite the increasing popularity and use of complementary practice, it is difficult to assess its effectiveness. Lack of research – and lack of agreement on research methods – has led to criticism from branches of conventional medicine.

The King’s Fund set up an advisory group, chaired by Professor Dame Carol Black, to consider how to develop and apply a robust evidence base for complementary practice. The group drew on the experience of a wide range of academics, researchers, practitioners and funders, much of it shared in a two-day participative conference.

This report of the group’s deliberations points out that complementary practice presents researchers with a unique set of challenges:

- how to take account of the context in which the intervention is made
- how to reflect the importance attached to treating the whole person
- how to accommodate the fact that the relationship between cause and effect may not be straightforward
- how to understand ‘placebo’ or non-specific effects.

Business case for the NHS staff survey

These resource materials have been produced by the Institute of Employment Studies on behalf of the Department of Health which start to detail the evidence base for the NHS staff survey, as well as case studies from public and private sector organisations explaining how and why their staff surveys have improved effectiveness. This resource will be updated periodically. A summary of evidence on the relationships between staff experience in the workplace, patient experience, and service quality will be posted in the autumn.
Members sought for NHS Innovation Challenge Prize Expert Panel

Can you recognise the potential of a new idea? Are you passionate about finding solutions to key health and social care challenges? If so, consider applying to join the NHS Challenge Prize Expert Panel. High Quality Care for All (HQCFA) puts quality at the heart of the NHS, providing an ambitious shared vision for the future of the NHS. It describes a reformed system that supports quality improvement.

Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care: response to the consultation

This response document is in response to ‘Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care’ consultation. It sets out messages heard during the consultation process through nine regional workshops held around England, an on-line questionnaire; and detailed written responses received by the Department of Health. This document sets out key themes identified, an analysis of the feedback received, and outlines how we intend to take forward work to develop a substantive strategy on volunteering in health and social care.

Safety and Security Directions - High Secure Psychiatric Services - Proposals for consultation

The aim of this consultation is to gather views on the proposed revision of The High Security Psychiatric Services (Arrangements for Safety and Security at Ashworth, Broadmoor and Rampton Hospitals) Directions 2009 and associated guidance, by inviting the views of key stakeholder

Local authorities' use of carers grant

This is the report of a study undertaken by the University of Leeds and commissioned by the Department of Health that aimed to get a better understanding of how local authorities in England spent their Carers' Grant allocations between 2005 and 2007 and how it enabled them to improve support for carers in their area. First introduced in April 1999, the Carers' Grant is provided to all councils with responsibility for social services in recognition of the support carers need for breaks and other services.

Support for people with mental health conditions to stay in work

The Department for Work and Pensions has announced a range of measures to provide people with mental health problems with extra support to manage their condition and remain in the workplace.

Report on Maternity staff from the King's Fund

The report is available to download at www.kingsfund.org.uk/saferbirths. It sets out the findings from three regional events involving heads of midwifery, lead obstetricians and risk managers. Across the three events, held in York, London and Wigan, 71 trusts were involved out of a total of 73 in the Yorkshire and the Humber, North East, London and North
West strategic health authority regions. Overall about 40 per cent of participants were midwives; 20 per cent were obstetricians; and 20 per cent were managers or risk managers. Most teams came from consultant-led units.

**Boorman review urges investment in staff health**

NHS Employers supports the findings of a new independent review which calls for staff health and well-being to be placed at the heart of NHS board agendas in order to improve patient care.

**Patient’s Association Report ‘Patients not numbers, people not statistics.’**

PA publishes Patients Not Numbers, People Not statistics - 16 first hand accounts of patient care in hospital. According to Jocelyn Cornwell, Director of The Point of Care programme at The King’s Fund, Patients’ stories and complaints, and those of their relatives, are important evidence and should be taken seriously by hospitals. Together with surveys and other measurements, they can help hospitals create an accurate picture of patients’ experiences and ensure that failures in care are not repeated and wherever possible prevented.

**Registered Professionals - Education and Training**

**Tomorrow’s doctors**

The GMC has completed a comprehensive review of *Tomorrow’s Doctors (2003)*. Following the review, they have produced *Tomorrow’s Doctors (2009)*.

**The framework for responsible officers and their duties relating to the medical profession: a consultation on responsible officer regulations and guidance**

The draft regulations set out the legal framework for introducing responsible officers. The guidance expands on the regulations and describes the role that responsible officers will play in supporting organisations and doctors, as they strive to improve quality of care.

**Future of nursing and midwifery consultation response**

NHS Employers has submitted its response to the Prime Minister’s Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery, which sought views on three key questions about nursing and midwifery in England. [more](#)

**New terms and conditions for consultants**

A new pay circular details changes to the terms and conditions of service for consultants and corrects an earlier rounding error in the associate specialist 2008 locum rates. Both changes come into effect from 1 September 2009.
Prevention of sharps injuries framework agreement

NHS organisations are encouraged to start working towards compliance with the European Commission framework agreement on the prevention of sharps injuries ahead of its ratification.

Non Registered Professionals - Education and Training

NHS apprenticeships to boost jobs for young people and adults

NHS organisations will receive a total of £25 million to create 5,000 new NHS apprenticeships by March 2010. New NHS apprenticeships will get real ‘on the job’ experience while improving their qualifications and contributing to the NHS workforce. Apprenticeships will include clinical support roles such as dental nurses and pharmacy support workers and non-clinical roles such as IT support, estates and facilities management and catering. They allow progression to a professional career.

Qualifications Credit Framework

Latest publication from LSC.

Further education important in getting a job, learners say

Government study shows benefits of further education to employment and future prospects. Most college learners believe their course played an important role in getting a job, a Government report revealed today.

Simplifying the Skills Landscape – the Skills Funding Agency and RDAs

The government has been looking at opportunities for simplification and they are considering the case for modifying the existing plans for the creation of the Skills Funding Agency by making the RDAs the single body with responsibility for producing the regional skills strategy and being the champion and advocate for skills at the regional level. Under this scenario, RDAs would be assigned the lead role in identifying, as part of their wider responsibilities for regional economic development, demand side needs for skills in their regions.

New policy to address unsatisfactory quality in institutions

HEFCE has set out its approach to institutions that are experiencing chronic and continuing problems in the quality of learning and teaching.
Third Sector Skills – Real Help

Outlines the skills help that is available to employers and learners in the third sector to help them to improve the skills of their workforce and their skills as individuals.

Framework for Excellence (FfE): 08/09 Results

The Framework for Excellence (FfE) is a performance assessment framework for post 16 education and training providers. It consists of a small set of indicators and gives an annual assessment of performance. 2008/09 saw the first year of FfE’s implementation – and was the first time that an assessment of this kind and scale has been carried out for FE provision in England.

- Festival of Learning

Informal adult learning will be a major focus of attention in October when the national Festival of Learning gets underway. All kinds of organisations, from colleges, libraries and local employers to reading groups, sports clubs and community organisations, will host a multitude of informal activities like story telling, local history slide shows, health checks, cookery demonstrations and sports taster sessions. Others will open up their rooms, halls, or IT suites so that groups of people can get together to share their skills and learn new things. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is supporting a wide range of organisations to come up with creative ideas that will make October a really exciting month.

Primary Care

Local self-assessment audit for assessing implementation of HTM 01-05: decontamination in primary care dental practices and related infection prevention and control issues

This audit tool has been produced jointly by the Department and the Infection Prevention Society, to allow practices to assess their level of compliance with the HTM 01-05: decontamination in primary care dental practices. It will allow practices to identify areas where they need to improve the quality of the decontamination process to achieve essential quality requirements and best practice, as identified in the guidance document.

Clinical Lead Sought for ‘Improving Access, Responding to Patients’ Education Programme

Requests by the RCGP.
Swine Flu: Authorisation of the supply of antivirals
More than 11 million people in England will be targeted first. The priority groups who will be first in line for vaccination against swine flu will include pregnant women, frontline health and social care workers, and everyone in at-risk groups aged over six months. Pandemic vaccine priority for most at risk

Pandemic flu: planning and responding to primary care capacity challenges
New guidance has been published for PCTs on how to deliver primary care services whilst potentially short staffed and how to cope with increased patient demand during the pandemic and the anticipated seasonal flu.

Pandemic influenza: guidance on meeting the needs of those who are or may become vulnerable during the pandemic

NICE publishes first menu of potential indicators for 2010/11 QOF

Public Health

Know your limits Campaign Survey
The NHS recommends women should not regularly drink more than 2-3 units a day (around one large glass of wine) and men should not regularly drink more than 3-4 units a day (two pints of beer). Drinkers in England drank an average eight alcoholic drinks every day during their summer holiday this year. Drinkers across England are losing valuable sleep and disrupting vital brain functions without knowing that their boozing is the cause.

Awards celebrate 10th Anniversary of Stop Smoking Services in the East of England
The East of England 10th Anniversary Stop Smoking Service Awards, celebrating the work being done by stop smoking service advisors across the region, have been launched (Monday 24 August) by the Department of Health Regional Tobacco Policy Manager (RTPM), Beelin Baxter.

Call for physical activity to be cornerstone of 21st century health
NHS to make the promotion of active lifestyles “core business and not a peripheral concern”. Health professionals should see improving activity rates and getting their patients moving as central to their work. This builds on the Olympic legacy and aims to move Britain up the European league table in terms of physical activity. Britain is in 21st place in Europe when levels of physical activity are compared.

Change4Life corner shops to open across the country
Corner shops nationwide will get help from Change4Life to sell fruit and veg – this will mean more people will get their 5 A day and shops will see an increase in profits.
Awareness campaign launched as measles rises

RDA annual performance reports released
The Government today published annual performance reports for each of England’s Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). They showed that all of the RDAs are meeting the objectives, milestones and targets set out in their corporate plans.

Swim4Life - Search for new swimming stroke

Allied Health

Advisory Group on the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations
Following the publication of the White Paper Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths - delivering the future on 3 April 2008, a consultation was held in the autumn 2008 on proposals for legislative change. This advisory group will link to the Health Bill 2009.

New training and education programme introduced for the scientific workforce in genetics
A new education programme has been developed to provide enhanced training in genetic technologies and clinical applications for healthcare scientists working in laboratory genetics.

A joint consultation on the Report to Ministers from the DH Steering Group on the Statutory Regulation of Practitioners of Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Other Traditional Medicine Systems Practised in the UK
A consultation on whether, and if so, how, practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine should be regulated was launched today by the Department of Health. Should practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine be regulated?

Manual for cancer services: draft radiotherapy measures - consultation

Fees for the registration of pharmacy premises: A consultation on the level of fees to be charged from 1 January 2010.

Discussions start on changes to community pharmacy contract
NHS Employers has started discussions with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) on possible changes to the community pharmacy contractual framework.
International Reports and News

WHO REPORT

Global prevalence of vitamin A deficiency in populations at risk 1995-2005

Current estimates of vitamin A deficiency for the period between 1995 and 2005 in preschool-age children indicate that 45 countries have vitamin A deficiency of public health significance based on the prevalence of night blindness. Over 120 countries have vitamin A deficiency of public health significance based on serum retinol concentration. This report is written for public health officials, nutritionists and researchers. Download the publication

Research

Research by Tobacco Control Collaborating Centre The Warwick based Tobacco Control Collaborating Centre showed that even when ventilation or open windows were used to get rid of smoke it remained at levels high enough to have potentially damaging health effects on any passengers, particularly children. The overall results revealed that air pollution levels were up to ten times worse in journeys where cigarettes were smoked than in non smoking journeys.

Other Reports

- Statistical Press Notice: Direct Access Audiology referral to treatment (RTT) times data June 2009
- Statistical Press notice: Access to GUM services
- NHS cancelled operations, quarter ending 30 June 2009
- Statistical press notice - NHS Referral To Treatment (RTT) times data - June 2009
- Statistical Press notice: Dental Commissioning – quarterly update
- National Patient Choice Survey latest results
- Diagnostics waiting times & activity data, month ending 30 June 2009
- Identifying unhealthy kidneys. What do I need to know about proteinuria?
- National Renal Dataset
- Reference guide to consent for examination or treatment, second edition 2009
- DH partner and stakeholder perceptions surveys - latest updates
- Citizens Council report on innovation published
- NICE updates End-of-life supplementary advice

Consultations

Closing September
- Health protection regulations: a consultation Closing date: 30 September 2009
Consultation on the de-authorisation of NHS foundation trusts Closing date: 18 September 2009

A better future: a consultation on a future strategy for adults with autistic spectrum conditions Closing date: 15 September 2009

Closing October

- Shaping the future of care together Closing date: 31st October 2009
- Fees for the registration of pharmacy premises: A consultation on the level of fees to be charged from 1 January 2010. Closing date: 30th October 2009
- The framework for responsible officers and their duties relating to the medical profession: a consultation on responsible officer regulations and guidance Closing date: 25th October 2009
- New Horizons consultation Closing date: 15th October 2009
- Consultation on the revision of the Fair Access to Care Services guidance to support councils to determine eligibility for social care services Closing date: 6th October 2009
- Essence of care: a consultation on a new benchmark on pain Closing date: 2nd October 2009

Closing November

- Manual for cancer services: draft radiotherapy measures Closing date: 27 November 2009
- Consultation on a review of Parental Order Regulations Closing date: 23 November 2009
- Consultation on the Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for health and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance; and Prevention and control of infection in care homes Closing date: 6th November 2009
- A joint consultation on the Report to Ministers from the DH Steering Group on the Statutory Regulation of Practitioners of Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Other Traditional Medicine Systems Practised in the UK Closing date: 2nd November 2009
- Safety and Security Directions - High Secure Psychiatric Services - Proposals for consultation Closing date: 2nd November 2009

Awards

GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards
Deadline for applications for the 2010 awards is 5pm on Friday 25 September 2009. The IMPACT Awards have been running since 1997 and are designed to recognise and reward charities that are doing excellent work to improve people’s health. They are funded by GlaxoSmithKline and managed in partnership with The King’s Fund. The awards are open to registered charities that are at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with a total annual income between £10,000 and £1 million. An overall winner will receive £35,000, nine other winners receive £25,000 and up to ten organisations that are highly commended or runners up receive £5,000 or £3,000. You do not need to present a new project. The awards are designed to recognise success and achievements for existing work. You decide how to use the award money. Organisations that win or are highly commended for an IMPACT Award will be offered free training valued at £3,500 for each organisation. Find out more about the IMPACT Awards Development Network. Winners will be given a range of resources to help promote their work (such as professional photographs, films, banners and brochures).

Events, Conferences and Courses

Coming Up

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September 2009

- 3-5 September — Tromso, Norway
  14th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Dental Public Health

- 9-11 September — Manchester
  UKCEA Conference

  09 September 2009 : Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London
  Apprenticeships - How to do it and What Works

- Independent Healthcare Convention 2009

  10 September 2009 : Thistle Marble Arch, London

- Laser and IPL Safety Training
  Events & Professional Training | 11 September 2009

- 14-16 September — Warwick
  Health Protection 2009

- Managing Long Term Conditions
16 September 2009: Central London, venue to be confirmed

- **Skills for the Public Sector Conference 2009**

16 September 2009: The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London

- **24 September** - Healthy lives, Brighter Futures – south east regional conference
- **24-25 September** – Cardiff
  2nd Injury Prevention Conference for the UK and Ireland
- **28-29 September** – Brussels
  2nd European meeting of EHESP school of public health
  eHealth online education and training

Events & Professional Training | 30 September 2009

**October 2009**

1 October – **London PMETB Stakeholder’s event**

- 5-6 October – London
  National Obesity Forum Conference 2009 - Obesity: Time to get serious!

- **14-16 October** – Rotterdam
  HIA 09: An International Conference. On the move.

- **13 October** – London
  Improving patients' experiences in hospitals – yes we can! (King’s Fund)

- **18-23 October** – Nairobi
  8th International Conference on Urban Health

- **20 October** – Liverpool
  Big Food Debate II - national public health nutrition conference

**November 2009**

- **3 November** – London
  Inequalities, Ethics and Obesity

- **5-6 November** – Washington, DC
  2008 research conference on food, nutrition, physical activity & cancer

- **7-11 November** – Philadelphia
  137th APHA Annual Meeting : Water and Public Health - The 21st Century Challenge

- **5th - 7th November, Glasgow**
  RCGP Annual National Primary Care Conference 2009

- **12-13 November** – Peebles
  Scotland Faculty of Public Health: Public Health in a Change of Age

- **16-18 November** – Manchester
  The 11th International Hepatitis C conference

- **16-20 November** – Havana, Cuba
  Forum 2009 : Innovating for the health of all

- **18 November** – Nottingham
  BHFNC 9th Annual Conference - National policy to local practice: working together to deliver physical activity programmes

- **24 November**

- **King’s Fund Annual Conference**
- 25-28 November – Lodz, Poland
  31st ASPHER annual conference: Transcending the borders – intercultural & transdisciplinary public health education to promote social and environmental well-being – promoting innovation
- 26-28 November – Lodz, Poland
  17th EUPHA Conference on Public Health: Human Ecology and Public Health – promoting social and environmental conditions conducive to health
- 26-28 November – Lodz, Poland
  The second joint European Conference on Public Health