General – in the news

**Launch of NHS Evidence – innovation and improvement**

This new specialist collection, managed by The King’s Fund, is now available online and will be officially launched at our annual conference later this month. The collection provides timely, high-quality information resources for those involved in the innovation and improvement of health and social care services.

*The Care Quality Commission has some tricky decisions ahead on using its powers to shut down failing services, its chair has admitted.*
The CQC has the power to suspend and ultimately close services that repeatedly fail to meet the quality requirements necessary to join its register, which trusts will be required to legally sign up to from April next year.

New certification scheme for health and social care information
The Information Standard has been launched to provide an easy way for the public to identify quality information they can trust. The scheme is open to any organisation producing health and/or social care information for the public. To qualify, organisations must demonstrate they have the necessary systems to ensure that their information is accurate, impartial, balanced, appropriately researched and accessible.

Draft Regulations for the framework for registration of health and adult social care providers
The response to the March 2009 consultation has recently been published. It details the changes made to the draft Regulations as a result of the consultation process. These draft Regulations have been laid before Parliament for approval.

Promoting mental well-being at work
The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published guidance for employers on promoting mental well-being through productive and healthy working conditions.

Education and Training

How long does it take to train a surgeon?
The time required to train a competent surgeon is a hotly debated topic as working hours for medical trainees are increasingly restricted worldwide. Surgical disciplines are unique in that surgeons must not only acquire medical knowledge but also develop the manual dexterity and, sometimes, the strength and endurance to perform procedures. This paper examines the evidence from the United States on the effects of duty hour legislation on surgeons' training.

RCGP Seeks Clinical Leads for e-Learning Project
The College is looking for an enthusiastic, dynamic and creative clinician to join its e-learning team. The deadline for applications is 17:00 on Monday 16 November 2009.

Book Online for National Education Programme for GPs
Places on the RCGP ‘Health and Work in General Practice’ programme are now available to book online. The programme consists of a half day workshop that provides GPs with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deal with clinical issues relating to work and health. It is being run across the UK and costs £15.00 for RCGP members and £20.00 for non-members. The workshops will be chaired by a local leader and delivered by an RCGP-trained GP and Occupational Physician. It is envisaged that around 100-150 workshops will be delivered over a two year period, each attended by around 30 GPs.

Revalidation Support Team: Advice on Appraiser Training
The revalidation process recognises the need to ensure that individuals performing the roles of appraiser are consistently educated and developed to a common agreed set of competencies. The Revalidation Support Team (RST) has produced new guidance for NHS employing organisations describing work that is underway to develop appraiser competencies and improved appraisal processes as part of the medical revalidation cycle.
Launch of Productive Community Services
Productive Community Services is an organisation-wide change programme which helps systematic engagement of all front line teams in improving quality and productivity.

Personalised Care Planning: Outline Service Specification (OSS)
The OSS has been developed to assist NHS commissioners with putting in place appropriate arrangements to ensure people with long term conditions have informed choice of, and access to, services that best enable them to manage their condition.

RCGP Response to Care Quality Commission Report on Managing Patients' Medicines
The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has reported that patients could be at risk unless the management of medicines between services such as GP practices and hospitals is improved. The report looks at how well patients’ medication is managed after patients leave hospital.

Public Health
Swine flu rates rise again and public awareness raising campaign launched
There has been a small increase in the number of new cases of swine flu. Hospitalisation rates and the number of patients in critical care both continue to rise. New clinical management guidelines for adults, children and pregnant women have been published.

International Reports and News
International study shows UK GPs rate improvements to their health service highest.
Andy Burnham welcomed the findings at a speech in Washington, and said it showed that the overhaul of the health service had paid off.

Research
Choice at the point of referral: Early results of a patient survey, Kings Fund
For the past three years patients referred by their GP for a specialist outpatient consultation have had a choice over where to be treated. As part of a larger research project, a survey was sent to patients in four case study areas of England to ask them about their experience of referral and choosing a hospital for treatment.

Poor handovers and working time directive causing hospital deaths
Poor communication between doctors, inadequate handovers at night and delays in contacting consultants are causing unnecessary hospital deaths, a confidential patient care study warns today.

Consultations
Closing November
- Join the Big Care Debate which is asking for views on proposals to modernise care services. Closing date: 13 November 2009
- 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

Closing December
NHS Waiting Times: A consultation on proposals to discontinue some current inpatient and outpatient collections. **Closing date:** 01 December 2009

Consultation on the proposed framework for Quality Accounts. **Closing date:** 10 December 2009

Supporting our future NHS workforce: a consultation on the NHS Bursary Scheme. **Closing date:** 11 December 2009

**Awards**

The European Commission has launched a set of calls for funding health research under the EU’s Research Framework Programme. The call deadlines range from October 2009 to February 2010 and the projects are expected to commence from mid-2010 onwards.

Nominations open for next year's BMJ Group awards. Nominations close on 15 November, and award winners will be announced on 10 March.

NIHR calls:

- Call for [scoping studies in emergency planning in health care](#). **Closing date:** 1pm on Wednesday 23 December 2009
- Call for [NHS responses to financial pressures](#). **Closing date:** 1pm on Wednesday 23 December 2009
- NIHR Clinical Academic Training Pathway for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professions: [NIHR Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship](#). **Closing date:** January 2010

**Events, Conferences and Courses**

**November 2009**

- 12 November
  [How to make the most of being a trainee educator](#): 4th Wessex Medical Education Fellows Conference

- 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](#)

- 19 November
  [End of life care road show](#), RCN Palliative, Complementary Therapies and Pain Forum have developed a series of roadshows as part of a UK-wide programme in order to engage with nurses working at a local level. It aims to help them understand the end of life care strategy.

- 20-21 November, Buxton
  [RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Forum conference and exhibition](#)

- 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

December 2009

- 8 December
  Accounting for quality: What you need to know to create quality accounts

- 10 December
  A National Care Service: how would it work?