General

Government welcomes progress in coordination and translation of health research for the benefit of patients: The Government's single health research fund, which will soon top £1.7 billion a year, is distributed in England by the Department of Health to the National Institute for Health Research, and by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills to the Medical Research Council.

NHS staff help develop measures of quality care: Doctors, nurses and other NHS staff in England are helping to develop new Standards to measure and improve the quality of care in the NHS.

Patient experience PSA scores - annual update: Patient Experience PSA scores update to include results from the 2007 and early 2008 patient surveys, and revisions to previous PSA scores. DOH 28th November 2008.

Balls and Johnson boost child mental health services: Children’s mental health services will be radically improved by a package of measures including a National Advisory Council and the roll-out of extra support for children in schools, Children’s Secretary Ed Balls and Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced today.

Sir Alan Langlands appointed Chief Executive of Higher Education Funding Council for England.

New Deputy CNO announced: The Department of Health has announced that David Foster has been appointed to the post of Deputy Chief Nursing Officer in England.

Health professionals still at risk of blood borne viruses through work: through occupational exposure and a significant number of these incidents are preventable, according to a report released by the Health Protection Agency.

Employers should invest in alternatives to needles says the RCN: The RCN is urging NHS employers to invest in safer alternatives to traditional needles to try to prevent injuries to staff.

Record numbers living with HIV in the UK: Wider availability of testing required to reduce heterosexual and gay transmission.

GMC launches complaints website for patients: The GMC has launched a new online information centre, Patients’ help, to let patients know who to contact when they have a concern about a doctor.

GMC contacts doctors in preparation for the introduction of the licence to practise: The General Medical Council is contacting doctors to provide them with information about the licence to practise, which will be introduced in the autumn of 2009.

Registered Professionals - Education and Training

The Foundation Programme: The Standard for Foundation Programme was revised in November 2008 (PMETB).

PMETB welcomes GMC consultation on eligibility for inclusion in the Specialist Register: The GMC is consulting on a scheme for the specialist registration of doctors who were consultants in the NHS before 1 January 1997 but are not on the specialist register.
Influence NHS quality improvement in England: RCN members who work for the NHS in England are being encouraged to help develop new standards to measure and improve the quality of care in the NHS.

Leadership for Senior Managers: This training programme takes a challenging approach designed to develop the full potential of public sector managers and clinicians who want to enhance their career and leadership prospects.

Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) Test – Part 1 Question Writers: Aim to expand our Part 1 Question Writing Pool and invite Consultants (or those of equivalent academic status) or Specialist Trainees (ST3 and above) with knowledge and skills in any specialty to apply. University academics in Basic Medical Sciences (who may be medically or non-medically qualified) who teach medical undergraduate and/or postgraduate students are also invited to apply.

Non-Registered Professionals - Education and Training

Primary Care

First Polyclinic Opens: The Hillside Bridge Healthcare Centre is the first of 152 'GP health centres' planned for England. The centre will be run by Local Care Direct via the Department of Health's Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) public–private partnership programme.

Measles on the rise: There is a "real risk" of a large measles epidemic, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) has warned following figures showing confirmed cases have reached their highest levels in 10 years.

Quality and outcomes framework 'distracts GPs': The quality and outcomes framework has been criticised as offering "inappropriate financial incentives" to GPs that can "distract" them from offering the best care.

The role of the Primary Care Trust board in world class commissioning: DOH Guidance document: published 18 Nov 2008

Public Health

Speech by Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo, MP, Minister of State for Public Health, to the IDeA Conference, 19 November 2008: regarding the Health Communities programme.

Change4Life coalition is launched: Through Change4Life, the Government is aiming to reduce the number of people who are obese or overweight and prevent the problem escalating to a point where the experts say it is likely to cost the NHS an estimated £50 billion by 2050.

Nine towns to share £30 million to kick start Change4Life movement: Portsmouth is chosen to be one of the nine towns.

FPH Annual Conference 2009: Call for Submissions: Closing date 15th December 2008.

Allied Health Professionals

Modernising NHS Science Careers: DOH has produced a consultative document to develop the healthcare scientist workforce. It aims to modernise the career pathways for healthcare scientists.

AHP Bulletin, Issue 68, December 2008: DOH matters related to the organisation and delivery of allied health professional services and includes items of direct interest to AHP staff.

Prospectus for a new Professional Body for Pharmacy: The Prospectus details the key roles of the new Professional Body and the services it will provide to members.

Scope of Practice: General Dental Council – who can do what in the dental team. Published November 2008.

International Reports and News

Confirmed rabies case in puppy in Malawi: The Health Protection Agency has been made aware of a case of confirmed rabies in a puppy that may have been in contact with UK travelers at the Mabuya Camp backpacker lodge near Lilongwe (the capital of Malawi).

Universal voluntary testing, immediate treatment can reduce HIV cases: Universal and annual voluntary testing followed by immediate antiretroviral therapy treatment (irrespective of clinical stage or CD4 count) can reduce new HIV cases by 95% within 10 years. WHO Report.
Research

Clinical lectureship scheme benefits research staff: Senior medical school staffs are optimistic about the impact the scheme will have on the capacity and sustainability of the clinical academic community.

Economic benefits of medical research: A new Academy of Medical Sciences report on the returns from UK investment into research.

Other Reports

NHS Evidence: NHS Evidence is a web-based service that will help people find, access and use high-quality clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice. NICE- Launch date April 2009.

Consultations

Closing January 2009

The revised NICE public health process and methods manuals: consultation on the 2008 drafts: 2nd Jan 2009

Closing February 2009.


Awards

- Learning and Teaching Innovation Grants: JISC wishes to fund one year projects and activities that fit with the vision, outcomes and principles of the JISC e-Learning programme and support innovative approaches to learning and teaching- closing date: 12 January 2009
- RD Funding: Full listings of all awards available for funding in health related research & learning bursaries for the health services available in 2009 including links to application details and forms.

Events, Education and Training Conferences and Courses

December 2008

- The King’s Fund - PCT Board Development Framework- Four free seminars for PCT board members looking at the emerging themes from the world class commissioning assessments, and leading global practice required from high performing boards. 8th December 2008 to 13th January 2009.
- Encouraging Healthy Behaviour: Developing successful interventions for creating Change. 9th December 2008.
- Becoming a New Consultant: How to make it work for you. 9th December 2008.
- Annual Public Health Lecture 2008: Perspective on the public health system, how is it rising to the challenges of the 21st century? Justin McCracken, CEO, Health Protection Agency. 16th December 2008.

Coming in 2009:

Interview skills workshops – returning soon: For juniors applying for specialty or consultant posts and SAS doctors applying for consultant grade

Life after medicine: Who is this workshop for? - Senior consultants and GPs considering retirement. The next "Life after medicine" workshop is due to run mid 2009.

Careers Advice Open Day for medical students: Who is this open day for? All medical students, especially final years. The next careers advice open day will be held during mid to late 2009

Faculty of Public Health Annual Conference: Scarborough: 16-18th June 2009.

February 2009

- Addressing Health Inequalities through Primary Care: RCGP. 5th February 2009.

March 2009

- The Impact of Personal Health Budgets on long-term conditions. 4th March 2009.
- RCN Annual International Nursing Research Conference: 24 - 27 March 2009, Cardiff, Wales, UK.
- Shaping PCT Provider Services: The future of primary and community services. 31st March 2009.
April 2009

- Medical students' conference 2009: 3 - 4 April 2009 at Streatham Campus, Exeter.
- Fifth National Conference on Obesity and Health: 27th to 29th April 2009.