Two new partnerships between NHS organisations and leading universities will receive a total of £18 million to conduct research and improve care in major conditions including depression, dementia, stroke, and childhood obesity, the Department of Health announced today.

**MRSA infections cut by more than half**
The latest quarterly figures on MRSA bloodstream infections, published by the Health Protection Agency today, show that the number of MRSA infections has fallen by 57% compared to the base level in 2003/4 when the target was set.

Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer, announced the publication of a risk assessment for venous thromboembolism, recommended for all patients admitted to hospital in England. Venous thromboembolism in hospitalised patients is responsible for around 25,000 deaths in England each year. The risk assessment will be provided to hospitals along with guidance to help them identify patients at risk of developing venous thromboembolism.

Healthcare Management amongst the most desirable careers
In research sponsored by Skills for Health and NHS Careers Jobseekers ranked healthcare management among the most desirable careers. The research was undertaken in Spring for the Health Learning and Skills Advice Line.

Women spending less time in NHS hospitals after giving birth by Caesarean section
Women are spending less time in NHS hospitals after giving birth by Caesarean section compared to previous years, a report by The NHS Information Centre shows.

Patients benefiting from drive to improve night care hospitals
Patients are benefiting from a national initiative to improve the quality of care they get from hospitals during the night, says a report published on 19 September 2008.

**Government responds to Healthcare Commission Review of Urgent & Emergency Care**
The Department of Health has today welcomed the Healthcare Commission (HCC) Review of Urgent & Emergency Care services, which reports that the majority (60%) of Primary Care Trusts are performing well.

The Report commends recent achievements in urgent and emergency care including huge improvements in waiting times A&E services and response times for ambulances.

Online service launch to help NHS providers and suppliers
From Wednesday 1 October 2008, all NHS commissioners will be required to post information about tendering opportunities and contract awards on the site, making it easier for suppliers to track down single opportunities and understand exactly what PCTs want

**2009 children’s services mapping exercise**
All commissioner and provider organisations participating in this year’s mapping exercise are required to register during October for data collection between 1 November 2008 and 27 February 2009.

**Registered Professionals - Education and Training**

The MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship – closing date 21st November
This is a post-doctoral clinical fellowship providing up to four years’ support. Fellowships are open to hospital doctors, dentists, general practitioners, nurses, midwives and members of the allied health professions. There is also a patient-oriented version of the scheme that provides up to five years’ support, which is intended for research which requires up to 40 per cent of the Fellow’s time to be spent in clinical work. At least 50 per cent of this clinical work should be of direct relevance to the research project.

Pandemic influenza: Guidance on the delivery of and contract arrangements for primary care dentistry
The guidance provides specific advice to the NHS on the delivery and contract arrangements for primary care dentistry in the event of a Pandemic.

**CAREERS TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS**
The BMA is offering a series of career development and professional development workshops.

Non-Registered Professionals - Education and Training

Two new Specialist Libraries from the National Library for Health:

Infections Specialist Library

This library provides convenient and comprehensive access to the highest quality evidence on the investigation, prevention, treatment and control of infectious diseases from a clinical perspective. It is intended to keep health professionals up to date with the burgeoning amount of infectious disease evidence that is emerging daily.

Commissioning Specialist Library

Aims to be a one-stop shop providing timely and efficient access to high quality information resources for all those involved in commissioning for health and wellbeing. It endeavours to include the best available evidence, examples of good practice, policy and data to support world class commissioning.

Food, Nutrition and Hydration in Health and Social Care

NESC has teamed up with the NHS Core Learning Unit to host an event aimed to help further encourage cross-sartorial and educational approaches to issues surrounding nutrition and hydration in health and social care. This will be held on Wednesday 26th November at Shaw House in Newbury. For further details and to register, please contact Helen Bingham (helen.bingham@nesc.nhs.uk).

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has launched the next four in a series of ten factsheets for all healthcare staff and care caterers to support the 10 key characteristics of good nutritional care. The factsheets have been developed to improve the
nutritional screening of patients and service users when they enter a care setting. This ensures people have access to food and beverages whenever they need them and improves nutritional planning for all patients.

**Primary Care**

**Updated ethical guidance**

The GMC has updated the guidance it gives on prescribing, conflicts of interests and reporting criminal and regulatory proceedings.

**Equality, diversity and fitness to practice**

Exploring and explaining variations in the identification, handling and outcomes of concerns about doctors

The experiences of UK, EU and non-EU medical graduates making the transition to the UK workplace

**Plan to double doctor numbers in the community**

The number of London doctors based in the community will rise from the current 25% to 47% over the next 10 years, it has been announced. The plans are part of NHS London 10 year vision outlined in Workforce for London

**Cut to junior doctors' hours does not compromise patients' safety**

Research presented at the Skills for Health - Workforce Projects Team’s Working Time Directive 2009 Exhibition: The Final Countdown at the ExCeL in London has found that reducing the hours of junior doctors does not compromise patients’ safety and could even dramatically cut mistakes on wards.

**GP Sought to Assess Foundation Training**

The GMC and PMETB are looking for GPs to assess the provision of Foundation Training in postgraduate medical deaneries. Candidates will need experience of delivering the programme at deanery level and some knowledge of quality assurance and/or quality management systems. For further information on the role and application process, please contact Kate Gregory at kgregory@gmc-uk.org or on 02071895109.

**Public Health**

**Population Health Scientist Fellowship** closing date 10th October

As part of its commitment to early career training and development in population health sciences, the MRC has announced a new fellowship competition designed to support MRC priorities for the field. The new fellowships can be awarded at the pre- or post-doctoral entry level.

**17th Annual Public Health Forum: HEALTH INEQUALITIES – TURNING THE TIDE?**

Brighton Centre 25th & 26th March 2009

Bookings are now open and the Call for Papers is now available, for more information please click here.

**Keynote speakers are:** Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP (tbc) Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps, Professor Sir Michael Marmot (tbc) Changing the way we view health. Challenging the avoidable political, social and economic forces which perpetuate health inequalities, Dr Valerie Day Transformational population health improvement – Can commissioning make the difference?

HPA modelling reveals chickenpox vaccination would lead to more shingles among elderly despite introduction of shingles vaccination

New modelling research presented at the Health Protection Agency’s annual conference in Warwick confirms that vaccination against chickenpox would significantly decrease the burden of this disease but would lead to more shingles among the elderly. Researchers also found that vaccinating the elderly against shingles would only partially, but not completely, offset this increase.

**New £20m free school meals pilot**

Primary school children in deprived areas will be given free healthy school meals in a £20 million drive to cut obesity and get young people eating more healthily.

**Allied Health Professionals**

**Clinical Academic Training Pathway for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Chief Nursing Officer for England are launching a major joint initiative for an academic training pathway for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Chief Nursing Officer for England, in collaboration with Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are launching a major new initiative to boost clinical academic careers for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. Funding has been secured to implement a number of research training schemes which, collectively, will offer a comprehensive clinical academic training pathway. The schemes will offer four levels of integrated training: Masters in Research (MRes) or Masters in Clinical Research, Doctorate by Research (not professional doctorate) Clinical Lectureships, Senior Academic Clinical Lectureships Allied health professionals and clinical leadership

All health professionals - not just doctors - need to embrace clinical leadership if Lord Darzi’s vision for the NHS is to be realised.

**Dental nurse or technician?**

Dental nurses and technicians must be either registered or in training. Experience is no longer enough. Transitional arrangements have now come to an end. Anyone employing a member of staff who is not registered or in training risks a GDC fitness to practise investigation and is putting their own registration at risk.

**International Reports and News**

**Cut to junior doctors’ hours does not compromise patients’ safety**

WHO and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization are urging affected countries to ensure safe feeding of millions of infants following the ongoing melamine-contaminated milk crisis in China.

WHO and other UN agencies jointly pledge to intensify their support to countries to improve maternal and newborn health.

More than 500 000 women die every year in pregnancy or childbirth: one every minute. WHO and other UN agencies jointly pledge to intensify their support to countries to improve maternal and newborn health.

**Research**

**£4m boost for NHS science researchers**

CSO Healthcare Scientists Research Fellowship Competition launched a new research fellowship scheme opened today, which will provide £4 million in funding over the next three years for healthcare scientists to undertake research to improve patient services and treatment.

Funded by the Department of Health and supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the scheme will fund areas of research that will have direct patient benefit. Research projects may include helping patients to self-care and self-manage, developing diagnostic tests, enhancing therapeutic services or improving the NHS’s ability to monitor disease. NHS scientists are invited to develop a research project that could both address a patient care issue and promote links between the NHS and University research groups.
UKCRC Translational Infection Research Initiative – Closing date January 2009

The major funders of infection research in the UK have come together under the auspices of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) to launch a UK wide initiative to boost infection research. This initiative is intended to encourage diverse research communities to form productive partnerships, combining their expertise to focus effort on research goals aimed at making a significant clinical and public health impact in the field of infection research.

Other Reports

Pandemic influenza: Guidance on the delivery of and contract arrangements for primary care dentistry

Listening and responding to communities: a brief guide to Local Involvement Networks

Consultations

Closing October

- Draft Apprenticeships Bill, DIUS, closing: 8th October
- A Vision for Science and Society, DIUS, closing 18th October
- Changes to arrangements for regulating NHS bodies in relation to healthcare associated infections for 2009/10, DoH, closing: 20th October
- No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility, DWP, closing: 22nd October
- Centre of Excellence for workforce strategy and planning - The King’s Fund, closing: 24th October 2008.
- Call for expressions of interest in piloting the Common Assessment Framework for Adults - Phase 1, DoH, closing: 28th October
- Communities in control: Real people, real power: Improving local accountability, Communities and local government, closing 30th October

Closing November

- The General Optical Council (Constitution) Order 2008 - A paper for consultation, DoH, closing: 7th November
- The General Osteopathic Council (Constitution) Order 2008, DoH, closing: 7th November
- Are you involved in a Dental Body Corporate? Have your say in GDC consultation, GDC, closing: 11th November
- Consultation on direct payments regulations, DoH, closing: 11th November
- Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths, delivering the future – proposals for legislative change, DoH, closing: 20th November
- Consultation on revised guidance for doctors on the principles of confidentiality and respect for patients’ privacy that doctors are expected to understand and follow. GMC closing 28th November

Closing December

- Consultation on public, patients’, and other interested parties' views on additional uses of patient data, DoH, closing 12th December

Awards

- 3rd Annual UK Award for Allied Health Professionals and Healthcare Scientists, closing: 4th November
- HSI Awards, 1st December

Events, Education and Training Conferences and Courses

October

- Doctors should do as they are told – myth or reality?, 6th October, Royal Society of Medicine
- Safety First: Top of Your Board’s Agenda Summit, 7th October, The Patients Association
- Fundamentals of Commissioning, 8th October, HSJ
- Legal, Ethical and Clinical Issues in Dentistry Conference, 9th October, Action against medical accidents
- Measuring and Monitoring Clinical Outcomes, 14th October, Institute of Healthcare Management
- Practice Education Forum Conference, 14th October, RCN
- Delivering the Cancer Reform Strategy, 14th October, Institute of Healthcare Management
- NHS Marketing Forum, 14th-15th October, HSJ
- NHS Risk Management, 15th October, HSJ
- Managing Long Term Conditions, 15th October, HSJ & Nursing Times
- Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of Nursing, 15th October, RCN
- NHS Alliance Annual Conference: vision into action, 16th-17th October, NHS Alliance
- Working in high risk situations, 20th October, The Kings Fund
- NHS Change Management, 22nd October, HSJ
- LGA/ADSS National Children’s and Adult Services Conference, 22nd-24th October, NICE
- Education Section Annual Conference, 31st October-2nd November, British Psychological Society
- 2008 Annual Dental Nursing Conference, 31st October-1st November, British Association of Dental Nurses

November

- NHS Employers Annual Conference and Exhibition, 4th & 6th November, NHS Employers
- Preventative Health 08, 4th November, Health of the Nation
- Therapeutic Patient Education 2008, 5th-8th November,
- Alcohol: The debate 2008, 6th November, HIT
- Innovation live – what’s new in the field of innovation?, 12th November, NESTA
- The Assistant Practitioners Conference, 12th November, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
- Saving Lives: Reducing Avoidable Deaths in Hospital, 12th November, Institute of Healthcare Management
• Developing Excellence in Clinical Leadership, 12th-13th November, College of Radiographers
• Health Promotion and Illness Prevention, 13th November, HSJ
• Forward Together – Meeting the Challenge, 14th-15th November, ISCP/CSP
• Nurse Practitioner Association conference and exhibition, 14th-15th November, RCN
• BDA Research Symposium for Dieticians New to Research, 17th November, British Dietetic Association
• Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health, 17th-19th November, WHO
• Doctors’ Health Matters – Finding the Balance, 17th-19th November, BMA
• Strategic Leadership Programme, 18th-20th November, The Royal College of Midwives
• Minding the Gap: Achieving Integrated Care, 19th-20th November, National Association for Primary Care
• British Academy of Audiology Annual Conference, 25th-28th November, BAA
• Understanding Health Improvement, 26th November, Royal Institute of Public Health

December

• NHS Technology Adoption Centre Annual Conference, 1st December, NHS
• Delivering Service Improvements in Pathology, 2nd December, The Royal College of Pathologists
• Becoming a New Consultant: how to make it work for you, 9th December, Royal College of Physicians
• Intelligent Information for World Class Commissioning Date: 09 December 2008

January 2009

• Intelligent Information for Effective Governance, 22nd January
• World Class Workforce 27th-28th January