Market Intelligence e-Newsletter

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General

Funding for health students
Eight healthcare unions have called for a simplified finance scheme to support healthcare students currently in training and to encourage more people into a healthcare career in the future. This follows the publication, “Student Experience – the case for change” which emphasised that the NHS must attract a diverse group of students and support them through to registration.

Key Interventions to reduce healthcare-associated infections and increase cleanliness
The DoH has published a new report, “Going Further Faster II, Applying the learning” to reduce health-care associated infections and improve cleanliness. This emphasises key interventions that Trusts should implement for a policy of zero tolerance of infection, including the importance of staff training.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) core dataset
This dataset contains indicators with associated information which will be of use to those compiling the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

NHS Finances Doing Well
The Department of Health announced that the NHS is demonstrating strong financial management in the first quarter of 2008. A surplus of £1.75 billion is predicted for 2008/2009.

Long-term NHS staff vacancy rates continue to fall
Latest statistics from the NHS Information Centre on vacancies unfilled for three months or more has been published, “The NHS Vacancy Survey 2008”. This indicates that rates are falling, with the rate being below 1.0% for all the main staff groups.

Progress on National Diabetes Framework – Five Years On
The publication of, “Five Years On – Delivering the Diabetes National Service Framework”, marks interim progress after the launch of the framework in 2003. This report identifies areas of progress and necessary improvements, including the care of children with diabetes.

Reporting Knife Wounds
The GMC and DoH have published interim guidance for doctors on reporting knife wounds to the police, including disclosure of personal information to the police. Final guidance will be published after the consultation period which will begin in September 2008.

Registered Professionals - Education and Training

NHS Bursary Scheme – ninth edition
This outlines the support for academic years commencing on/after 1st September 2008 and before 1st September 2009.

Postgraduate deaneries as employment agencies
The BMA’s legal Department has reported that postgraduate medical deaneries appear to act as employment agencies. As such, they are required to comply with the stipulations of the Employment Agencies Act 1973 and the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003. This requires deaneries to provide accurate employment details to junior doctors including their start date, level of pay and working hours.
Review of Tomorrow’s Doctors
The GMC has published the first of five bulletins describing the review process for “Tomorrow’s Doctors”. A three-month consultation period will begin in December 2008, with publication of the revised edition expected in Summer 2009.

Junior doctors’ working hours
The 48-hour working week will be introduced in August 2009 as part of the European Working Time Directive. However, the BMA has reported that nearly half of junior doctors are currently working more than this.

Safer management of controlled drugs
The Healthcare Commission has identified that there has been improved management and monitoring of controlled drugs following the Shipman enquiry, although more work is still necessary.

Non-Registered Professionals - Education and Training

Sector Employability Toolkit
An employability toolkit has been devised by Skills for Health to aid recruitment to entry level jobs. This toolkit includes an employability and recruitment checklist, selection event, development programme and 3-week work trial.

Research into Expanding Apprenticeships
A report into research about employers’ and learners’ attitudes towards the Apprenticeship programme has been published. This recommended that training providers need to play a bigger role in engaging both employers and young people in such schemes.

NVQ Resource Pack
The Learning and Skills Council has published a resource pack to facilitate employers to provide NVQs as part of the Train to Gain service.

It’s Time to Talk Training: How to develop a dialogue on skills at the workplace
This joint publication explores ways of aiding a two-way dialogue on training between employer and workforce and discusses the benefits this can bring to both parties.

Primary Care

Patients praise the care they get in GP practices and health centres
The results of a survey of primary care services has identified very positive results for care provided by GP practices and health centres, although access to services was variable throughout the country.

BMA response to polyclinic plans
The BMA has expressed concern about the government’s unrealistic timescales and “one-size fits all” approach to polyclinics and GP-led health centres.

Measles epidemic
The HPA has welcomed the Chief Medical’s MMR catch-up programme, which requires Primary Care Trusts and GPs to offer catch-up immunisation to patients not up-to-date with their MMR vaccinations.

General Practice Extraction Service
This primary care data extraction service has been developed by the NHS Information Centre. It will allow provision of key information to support patient care and reduce health inequalities.

Public Health

NHS Stop Smoking Services – First Annual Report

HPV & Cervical Cancer Educational Pack Launched
The Royal Society of Health has announced the launch of a free learning and teaching resource, “HPV and Cervical Cancer: What you and your pupils need to know”.

Announcement of 3 new Biomedical Research Units
The Public Health Minister has announced three new Biomedical Research Units to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses including heart disease, obesity and asthma.

Allied Health Professionals
Paramedic online training resources
An online CPD portal has been launched by the British Paramedic Association.

VT Advance for dentists
A new training scheme, VT Advance, will provide dentists with a one-year period of practice in a specialised area of dentistry. This scheme will be piloted from 1st September 2008.

Clinical dental technicians course
The first UK stand-alone course for clinical dental technicians has been approved by the General Dental Council and will launched in Edinburgh later this year.

Response to Modernising Scientific Careers
The Federation for Healthcare Science has released a position statement on the Modernising Scientific Careers Programme, including some concerns about the proposals.

Updated national guidance on the safe administration of intrathecal chemotherapy
This Health Service Circular – HSC 2008/001 – details minimum standards for NHS Trust intrathecal chemotherapy services.

International Reports and News

Report from Georgia: No communicable outbreaks of disease in conflict areas

Research

Revised Best Research for Best Health Implementation Plans published: Latest version published.

1st end of life care research institute
The DoH announced £1 million grant for the Cicely Saunders Institute for Palliative Care, the world’s first research institute for end-of-life care.

Other Reports

The Pharmaceutical price Regulation Scheme August 2008
National Health Service Litigation Authority (Primary Medical Services – General Practice Systems of Choice Primary Care Trust – Practice Agreement – Dispute Resolution) Directions 2008
The General Ophthalmic Services Contracts (Payments) Directions 2008
Healthy weight: healthy lives: why your child’s weight matters
Department of Health Audit Committee 2007-08 annual report to the Departmental Board
Statistical press notice: Dental Reform Monitoring – quarterly update
Statistic press release – NHS cancer waiting times figures Quarter 1, April to June 2008
Diagnostics waiting times & activity data; month ending June 2008
Practice based commissioning GP practice survey
Interim report of the Expert Group on Commissioning NHS Infertility Provision
Statutory Directions for the Routine Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme
Towards a Skills Academy for Social Care: The Proposal for National Skills Academy Status
Ensuring PPR supports delivery of effective cancer services
Ambulance guidelines: reducing infection through effective practice in the pre-hospital environment
Local Involvement Networks Code of Conduct

Consultations

Closing September

- Radiology Accreditation Programme standards, RAP, closing: 5th September
- Consultation on the Interpretation and Application of the Private Patient Income Cap, Monitor, 9th September
- Management of long-term sickness absence and incapacity for work, NICE, closing: 17th September

Closing October

- Draft Apprenticeships Bill, DIUS, closing: 8th 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
• 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, 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

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

Events, Education and Training Conferences and Courses

September
• Training Day for GP receptionists and support staff, 8th September, Royal College of General Practitioners
• Promoting improvement through peer learning event, 9th September, Healthcare Commission
• Beyond Pathways to Work: Health, Work & Well-Being, 10th September, Royal Society of Medicine
• 13th Physiotherapy Assistants Annual Conference, 12th September, The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
• NICE public Board meeting and “NICE Question Time – Plymouth: Public Health and Implementation work programmes, 17th September, NICE
• Urgent care at the crossroads – chaos or creativity, 18th September, NHS Alliance
• Infection Prevention 2008: Inform, Promote & Sustain, 22nd-24th September, Infection Control Society
• Health and Safety 2008: a new approach, 23rd September, The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
• Competence in New Nursing Roles, Skills and Advanced Practice, 23rd September, RCN
• The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health – Best of the best Conference, 29th-30th September, CIEH

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
• You and your practice – learning together, 23rd-25th October, The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists
• 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 Symposia 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