



NHS South of Tyne and Wear

servicing Gateshead Primary Care Trust, South Tyneside Primary Care Trust and
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust

Key Points – 27th August 2010

Department of Health

the week: issue 160, 20 - 26 August 2010

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Bulletins/theweek/DH_118991

Manual for Cancer Services 2008: Psychological Support Measures

This guidance provides details of the psychological support measures to be included in the Manual for Cancer Services. It has been produced as a result of a consultation to support quality assurance and enable quality improvement.

<http://alturl.com/jcz2i>

End of Life Care Strategy: Second Annual Report

This second annual report sets out the continuing progress in implementing the Department of Health's end of life care strategy. It highlights the need for further work and identifies the action intended for this coming year.

<http://alturl.com/fkvj2>

Best Practice Guidance for managing appointment slot issues within Choose and Book

This guidance is aimed at commissioners, Acute Trusts, Primary Care Trusts and the independent sector who offer direct Choose and Book services. It covers the process to follow when there are no appointment slots available with a chosen provider.

<http://alturl.com/ovbgo>

Annual independent review of the UK Government's global health strategy

This report is a review of the UK Global Health Strategy, 'Health is Global'. The review looks at the coherence and consistency of UK government working in the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in line with the GHS. The strategy seeks to provide a framework for departments to work more strategically together to make the most of opportunities to improve health.

<http://alturl.com/jdk8o>

International policy

Content restored from archive

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/International/index.htm>

Certificates of Free Sale for CE-marked Medical Devices

Content restored from archive

<http://alturl.com/q9z49>

News releases 21-27 August 2010

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/dh/>

Statistical Press Notice: Adult Critical Care Beds census

Statistical Press notice: NHS Inpatient and outpatient events

Andrew Lansley and his Ministerial team have started a tour of England to hear first-hand the views of staff, patients and local communities on the NHS White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'.

Good progress has been made in improving end of life care, but more needs to be done to make sure everyone gets the highest quality of care, in the setting of their choice.

The New Number for the Future of Non-Emergency Health Services A new three-digit number - 111 - that will make it easier for patients to access non-emergency NHS healthcare wherever they are, 24 hours a day, has been launched by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley.

Statistics

NHS elective admission events and outpatient referrals and attendances, quarter ended 30 June 2010

<http://alturl.com/iqsxr>

Waiting times for suspected cancer patients: quarter ending June 2010

<http://alturl.com/ywqwm>

Critical Care Beds, July 2010 census

<http://alturl.com/7vs7g>

Information Centre

Data on written complaints

This annual collection is a count of written complaints made by (or on behalf of) patients, received between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. Some key facts are that the number of written complaints about hospital and community health services has increased by 13.4 per cent from 89,139 in 2008-09 to 101,077 in 2009-10 and there has been an increase (4.4 per cent or 2,158) in the number of written complaints about general practice (including dental) health services from 48,597 in 2008-09 to 50,755 in 2009-10. This compares to last year's increase which was 10.6 per cent.

<http://alturl.com/vjv7h>

Dental working hours statistics

The information Centre has published 'Dental Working Hours England and Wales 2008/09 and 2009/10'. This report provides information on dental working hours for dentists in England and Wales in 2008/09 and 2009/10 who performed some NHS activity. Information on average weekly hours, weekly NHS hours, weeks of annual leave and the division of time between NHS and private dentistry, and clinical and non-clinical work, is presented.

<http://alturl.com/5gfk2>

NHS Vacancies Survey England 31 March 2010

The purpose of these surveys is to highlight problems with recruitment so that they can be addressed. They focus on total and three month vacancies within NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS). Data is presented for both the number of total and three month vacancies and the total and three month vacancy rate. Caution is needed when looking at some of the smaller areas of work within the main staff groups as the numbers of staff in post and the number of vacancies are small and can show large rates. A key finding is that the three month rates for most main staff groups have fallen slightly since last year.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/vacancysurvey10>

GP Practice Vacancies Survey 2010

This is the sixth annual survey of GP Practice Vacancies in its current format. Its purpose is to collect and supply data about GP recruitment in England and Wales and to provide information on practice nurse and practice staff vacancies in GP practices. A key fact is that

the estimated 3 month GP vacancy rate has increased this year in England with the total vacancy rate rising from 1.6 per cent in 2009 to 2.1 per cent.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gpvacancies10>

Office for National Statistics

Deaths involving MRSA and C. Difficile

The Office for National Statistics has published two bulletins about the number of deaths from two of the most high profile healthcare associated infections. The figures show that the number of deaths has dropped considerably over the last year. Deaths involving Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) fell by 34 per cent between 2008 and 2009 from 5,931 to 3,933. Similarly deaths involving meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) went down by 37 per cent, dropping from 1,230 to 781. During 2005-2009 the over 85s had the highest C. difficile death rates of 2,349 per million population for males and 2,363 per million for females. Rates were lowest in the under-45 age group with less than one death per million for each sex.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mrsacdifnr0810.pdf>

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mrsa0810.pdf>

Health Statistics Quarterly 47, Autumn 2010

This issue includes figures showing that men in routine and manual occupations face the risk of an early death when compared to those who are in managerial or professional jobs. The gap between the most and least advantaged, in terms of the actual number of deaths, has narrowed slightly, thus inequalities when measured on an absolute scale have not substantially changed. However, when using relative measures of inequality, the results indicate that inequality between managers and manual occupations has increased. In 2001, a worker in a routine or manual occupation was twice as likely to die before the age of 65 than his manager, but in 2008 that ratio had risen to 2.3. There are also articles on life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy (DFLE) estimates for Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs), England, 1993-2003 and, amenable mortality as an indicator of healthcare quality – a literature review Health Statistics Quarterly:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hsq/downloads/hsq47.pdf>

NHS Employers

NHS Workforce bulletin, issue 229, 23 August 2010

<http://alturl.com/i7jdz>

NICE

NICE report on medicines use in the NHS: consultation

A report on the uptake of NICE-approved drugs in the NHS in England will be published by NICE in November. The report will compare the actual use of medicines that have been positively appraised by NICE with an estimate calculated by the Institute. For the first time it will name the NHS organisations involved, with data shown at Strategic Health Authority (SHA), Primary Care Trust (PCT) or cancer network level, depending on the level of usage and healthcare settings. NICE is inviting comments from prescribing leads, relevant PCT and SHA managers on the approach being taken in this year's report and how this information could be utilised by the NHS.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/news/ReportUptakeOfNICEApprovedDrugs.jsp>

Clinical guideline: Ablative therapy for the treatment of Barrett's oesophagus (CG106)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG106>

Clinical guideline: The management of hypertensive disorders during pregnancy (CG107)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG107>

Clinical guideline: Chronic heart failure: management of chronic heart failure in adults in primary and secondary care (CG108)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG108>

Clinical guideline: Management of transient loss of consciousness in adults (CG109)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG109>

Technology appraisal: Adalimumab, etanercept, infliximab, rituximab and abatacept for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis after the failure of a TNF inhibitor (TA195)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA195>

Technology appraisal: Imatinib for the adjuvant treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumours (TA196)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA196>

Technology appraisal: Dronedarone for the treatment of non-permanent atrial fibrillation (TA197)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA197>

Technology appraisal: Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (TA198)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA198>

Technology appraisal: Etanercept, infliximab and adalimumab for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis (TA199)

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA199>

Health Protection Agency

Sexually transmitted infections reach almost half a million

New figures released by the Health Protection Agency show that 15 to 24 year olds, particularly young women, continue to be the group most affected by sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the UK.

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/NewsCentre/NationalPressReleases/2010PressReleases/100825STI/>

Care Quality Commission

CQC publishes review of standards at United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trust

A report published by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) said United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust must take action to ensure it meets all essential standards of quality and safety.

The regulator has asked the trust to set out the action it will take to improve in relation to: safeguarding people from abuse; respecting and involving people who use services; management of medicines; and supporting workers

<http://alturl.com/scimw>

Royal College of Nursing

Dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia

The Royal College of Nursing has published new guidance on dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia. There are three publications: a summary guide for managers; a guide for managers and practitioners; and a toolkit for nursing staff. The guidance provides practical information about the conditions and sets out to raise awareness of legal and professional responsibilities associated with them.

<http://alturl.com/4xv8f>

British Medical Association

GP commissioning principles

The British Medical Association (BMA) has published 'The principles of GP commissioning: a GPC statement in the context of 'Liberating the NHS''. This GPC statement identifies a set of fundamental principles with regard to GP commissioning which will define policy, inform debate and negotiations, and ensure that good medical practice is enshrined within these enhanced responsibilities. The BMA believes that the Government should recognise these principles as it further develops its policies relating to GP commissioning.

<http://web2.bma.org.uk/nrezine.nsf/wp/BSKN-88LK6X?OpenDocument&C=28+August+2010>

The principles of GP commissioning

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/whitepaperGPCguidance1aug2010_tcm41-199488.pdf

Audit Commission

PbR assurance programme annual report

The Audit Commission has published 'Improving data quality in the NHS: annual report on the PbR assurance programme 2010'. This report summarises the outcomes of the Payment by Results data assurance programme since it began in 2007. It finds that the accuracy of clinical coding has improved since 2007, with the error rate dropping from 16 per cent to 11 per cent in three years. However, there remains wide variation between the best and worst performing trusts, even if the gap is narrowing. Errors are continuing to affect payments, and it is estimated that of the £21 billion spent on the four specialties that have been audited for three years, £1 billion (5 per cent) was paid wrongly. To continue to improve data quality, the report makes a series of recommendations for primary care trusts and NHS trusts to consider.

<http://alturl.com/duj28>

King's Fund

A pro-active approach: health promotion and ill-health prevention. Research Paper

Health promotion and ill-health prevention are key government priorities, but it is widely recognised that most general practices could be more proactive in engaging with the wider public health agenda. As the first point of NHS contact for most patients, general practice is in a unique position to promote the health and well-being of practice populations.

<http://alturl.com/djqm9>

Managing acute illness

The assessment, differentiation and treatment of minor and potentially serious acute conditions are core skills of general practice. Up to two-thirds of primary care contacts are with patients who have acute problems. These consultations draw on wide-ranging expertise from diagnosis and judicious prescribing, to communication and case management.

<http://alturl.com/c6gdt>

Leadership needs of medical and clinical directors

This document reports on the outcome of a KF survey of clinical and medical directors to find out what skills they believed they needed in order to face the current financial challenges.

http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/leadership_needs.html

Home Office

2010 Drug strategy consultation paper

This consultation seeks views on the development of the government's drug strategy. Responses are requested from charities, enforcement partners, drug workers, the voluntary sector and members of the public

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/cons-drug-strategy-2010/>

Communities and Local Government

Homelessness Prevention and Relief: England 2009-10

This annual release presents experimental official statistics on homelessness prevention and relief in England that took place outside the homelessness statutory framework in 2009-10. It includes action taken by authorities and partner organisations to enable households to remain in their own home and to assist households in obtaining alternative accommodation.

<http://alturl.com/qa3pk>

Safe rooms help stop domestic violence victims becoming homeless

New research and statistics published this week show that whilst domestic violence is one the major reasons families become homeless, protection measures such as safe rooms are very effective in helping these families to safely stay in their homes.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1698743>

DEFRA

Industry's ideas for growing and eating more fruit and veg

Members of the fruit and vegetable industry have presented ideas for increasing production and consumption of fruit and vegetables in England.

The report, by the industry-led Fruit and Vegetable Task Force, includes proposals for action by industry, as well as ideas for the Government to consider.

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/2010/08/26/fruit-veg-news/>

BBC Health

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/health/>

You can also read Key Points, and other info-related alerts and messages, on the CEHI (Centre for Enabling Health Improvement) **weblog** at:

www.cehi.org.uk

Sue Austin & Sue Graham
tel: 0191 4971460 0191 5297209
Librarian/Knowledge Managers
email library@sotw.nhs.uk
