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On the agenda

1. Care Quality Commission

All 378 NHS trusts providing services in England are now registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), whose full legal powers come into force today.

By law, trusts must be registered with the CQC to provide care. To be registered, trusts needed to show that they meet new essential standards of quality and safety, which the CQC will constantly monitor. Detailed information is available on the CQC website:

www.cqc.org.uk/guidanceforprofessionals/introductiontoregistration.cfm

To access the legal notices of decision, use the link below to search for the trust's page. The notices of decision are accessed via a link in the 'New registration system' box at the top of the trust's page:

<http://2009ratings.cqc.org.uk/findcareservices/informationabouthealthcareservices/overallperformance.cfm>

2. Building the National Care Service

Health Secretary Andy Burnham launched the White Paper, *Building the National Care Service*, earlier this week. The publication sets out plans to radically reform care and support across England over the next few years, making the system fair and affordable for all, and guaranteeing services that are free to eligible people when they need them.

The White Paper builds on the biggest ever consultation on care and support, with around 70,000 responses from the public, carers and through representative organisations.

You can read the White Paper and supporting documents, and watch a video of the launch event, at:

www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk

3. Swine flu update

Ian Dalton, National Director for NHS Flu Resilience, has written to all NHS chief executives and SHA flu lead directors to provide them with an update on swine flu. The letter thanks the NHS for their efforts in responding to the pandemic, but also sets out the resilience work that needs to continue, including lessons learned, future governance arrangements, the swine flu vaccination programme and antiviral recovery.

Roy Taylor, National Director for Social Care Flu Resilience, has also written to all directors of adult social services and directors of children's services, to thank them for their response to the swine flu pandemic and to update them on next steps with regard to social care resilience. The letter also includes information on the local authority self-assessment survey of pandemic flu preparedness.

Read Ian Dalton's letter at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_115038

Read Roy Taylor's letter at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_115048

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Policy news

1. **Healthy lives, brighter futures: one year on (Gateway reference number: 14044)**

This joint letter on child health from the Secretaries of State for Health and for Children, Schools and Families outlines the progress made to date and reaffirms the Government's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people. It places a particular emphasis on improving services for disabled children, reflecting the combined total £750m investment Government has made available over this Spending Review period.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_115039

Action:

- PCT chairs, PCT chief executives, SHA chairs and directors of children's services will wish to consider how the initiatives outlined in this letter can be applied locally to further inform partnership working to improve child health, including services for disabled children.

2. **Referral pathway for wet age-related macular degeneration (Gateway reference number: 14098)**

This letter from Ann Keen, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, to PCT chairs encourages pathways for wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD) to facilitate rapid access to assessment and treatment and advises that the scope for direct referrals by optometrists should be considered when developing local pathways.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_115009

Action:

- PCT chairs and chief executives are asked to ensure that local referral pathways for wet AMD reflect the importance of rapid access to assessment and treatment and take account of the possibility of optometrist direct referral.

3. **Out of Hours Performers Lists (Gateway reference number: 14026)**

Directions have been issued to PCTs to review procedures for managing Performers Lists within three months and to implement any changes by the end of the financial year 2010/11. This follows the recent GP Out of Hours report and the inquest into the death of David Gray.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Directionsfromthesecretaryofstate/DH_114482

Action:

- PCT chief executives will wish to prepare for these directions which come into effect from 1 April.

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4. Amendments Relating to Ophthalmic Services (Gateway reference number: 14020)

This letter provides guidance on a new requirement introduced by Regulations, in respect of patient preference of performer for services provided under General Ophthalmic Services contracts.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_114542

Action:

- PCT chief executives will wish to be aware and to discuss the regulations and the guidance on implementation with their optical leads.

5. NHS Performance Framework 2010/11 guidance (Gateway reference number: 14129)

Guidance on application of the NHS Performance Framework to acute, ambulance and mental health trusts (non-foundation trusts) has been updated for 2010/11.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_115035

Action:

- NHS chief executives are encouraged to ensure senior management teams familiarise themselves with the refreshed guidance and accompanying annexes.

6. Learning Disabilities Confidential Inquiry and Public Health Observatory (Gateway reference number: 13863)

Valuing People Now made commitments to undertake a Confidential Inquiry (CI) and an associated Public Health Observatory (PHO). This letter to PCT and SHA chief executives highlights the appointment of the Norah Fry Research Centre to establish the CI, and the North East Public Health Observatory to run the PHO.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_114996

Action:

- PCT and SHA chief executives will wish to be aware of these recent appointments.

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7. MRSA screening (Gateway reference number: 13482)

David Flory and Dame Christine Beasley have written to SHA chief executives, directors of finance, medicine, nursing and performance, with guidance to support NHS organisations in introducing MRSA screening for all relevant emergency admissions.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_114961

Action:

- NHS chief executives of organisations that admit relevant emergency patients are asked to arrange for their MRSA screening policy and statement of compliance to be refreshed and re-issued by 31 December 2010.

8. Mental health system reforms (Gateway reference number: 14088)

From April 2010, a number of significant system reforms will apply to mental health for the first time, while progress towards others is well underway. This paper highlights key milestones and reinforces steps that PCTs can take to use the reforms to deliver QIPP and New Horizons.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_115010

Action:

- SHA chief executives will want to seek assurance that PCTs are using the new reforms to delivery productivity and strategic service changes, and preparing for mental health PbR milestones.

9. Final year's allocations of the Social Care Reform Grant (Gateway reference number: 14030)

This Local Authority Circular details the final year's allocations of the Social Care Reform Grant.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_114788

Action:

- Local authority chief executives and directors of adult social care will wish to familiarise themselves with the final allocation of the Social Care Reform Grant for their area.

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10. Increases to NHS sight test fee (Gateway reference number: 13682)

This letter informs PCTs, NHS trusts, optometrists, ophthalmic medical practitioners and dispensing opticians of increases to the NHS sight test and domiciliary fees from 1 April 2010. Optical voucher values will remain unchanged from 1 April 2010.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_114693

Action:

- PCT chief executives and staff responsible for general ophthalmic and hospital eye services will wish to ensure that future fees are issued in accordance with this letter.

11. Improving oral health and dental outcomes (Gateway reference numbers: 13937 and 13938)

This letter and supporting guidance from Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer, informs how PCTs and SHAs can shape the provision of NHS dentistry to meet patient needs for safe, effective treatment and to address oral health inequalities, whilst also ensuring best value. A short and long version of this report has been prepared.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_114489

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to use this guidance to develop the dental public health workforce.

12. NHS Leadership Awards 2010 (Gateway reference number: 14119)

The awards for championing our leaders are in their second year and aim to recognise outstanding leadership talent working in the service today, at every level. See the website for details on the nine categories.

Link:

www.nhsleadershipawards.nhs.uk

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to support people in their organisations to nominate their peers, their board, their community leaders or their partners.

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Consultations and evaluations

13. Prevention and control of infections Code of Practice (Gateway reference number: 13879)

Consultation on applying the Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for healthcare, including primary care, and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance. It sets out criteria that the Care Quality Commission will use to assess compliance with the future registration requirement.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_114736

Action:

- NHS chief executives may wish to consider the implications for their primary care interface and are invited to submit comments by 24 June.

14. Draft Network Partnership Group measures

(Gateway reference number: 13878)

A draft version of the Network Partnership Group measures for inclusion in the Manual of Cancer Services has been issued for consultation.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_114585

Action:

- NHS chief executives who wish to comment on the draft measures are invited to do so by 25 June.

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15. Reducing *C.difficile* infections methodology (Gateway reference number: 14075)

Following the significant progress made nationally in reducing *C.difficile* infections, the Department has published the proposed methodology for the new *C.difficile* objective to apply to NHS organisations from April 2011.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/Healthcareassociatedinfection/Nationalupdates/DH_114862

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to be aware of this proposed methodology.

16. Allied Health Professions Referral to Treatment Guide (Gateway reference number: 13844)

This guide sets definitions to measure waiting times for patients accessing NHS Allied Health Professions (AHP) services. Subject to Information Standard Board and Review of Central Returns approval, it is proposed that national data collection on referral to treatment times for AHP services will be mandatory from April 2011. Voluntary local collection is encouraged from April 2010.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114871

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to discuss this update with their AHP managers and directors of IT.

17. Health Protection Legislation Guidance 2010 (Gateway reference number: 13698)

The Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency, in consultation with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, has published guidance on updated health protection legislation covering the recently amended Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and associated regulations.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114510

Action:

- Local authority and NHS chief executives will wish to familiarise themselves with this guidance as it explains notification requirements of registered medical practitioners and laboratories testing human samples, as well as health protection powers available to local authorities and justices of the peace.

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18. Children and Young People's Continuing Care

(Gateway reference number: 13509)

This National Framework sets out an equitable, transparent and timely process for assessing, deciding and agreeing bespoke packages of continuing care for those children and young people under the age of 18 who have continuing care needs that cannot be met by existing universal and specialist services alone.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114784

Action:

- NHS and local authority chief executives will wish to consider how this framework can assist in assessing, deciding and agreeing bespoke packages of continuing care for children and young people.

19. Dental Access Programme communications toolkit

(Gateway reference number: 13946)

This set of professionally produced, high quality marketing and communications materials, designed to help PCTs advertise available NHS dental access include: leaflets, bus posters, information cards, radio scripts, press releases and media fact sheets.

Link:

www.pcc.nhs.uk/dap-communicating-with-the-public

Action:

- PCT chief executives will wish to discuss the availability of this toolkit with their dental leads and communications staff in order to raise awareness of new dental capacity in their local area.

20. Reporting and Learning from Serious Incidents Requiring Investigation

(Gateway reference number: 13733)

The National Patient Safety Agency, in consultation with key NHS stakeholders, has developed a nationally agreed approach to reporting, managing and learning from serious incidents.

Link:

www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/report-a-patient-safety-incident/patient-safety-direct/serious-incident-reporting-and-learning-framework-sirl/

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to discuss the implications of this framework with their patient safety leads.

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21. The Caldicott Guardian Manual 2010 (Gateway reference number: 14043)

An updated Caldicott Guardian Manual and supporting e-learning module, *The Role of the Caldicott Guardian in the NHS and Social Care*, have been published by DH Informatics in conjunction with the UK Council of Caldicott Guardians. Information about becoming a member of the council is also available.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114509

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to discuss the implications of this manual with their Caldicott Guardian and encourage them to consider membership of the council.

22. GP extended opening hours (Gateway reference number: 14096)

The Directions to PCTs giving the legal basis for implementing the Directed Enhanced Service (DES) for GP practices to extend their opening hours have been published on the DH website and come into force on 1 April 2010. Accompanying guidance can be accessed via the link below.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114934

Action:

- PCT chief executives should ensure their organisations offer the DES to all GMS and PMS practices in their area and that as many patients as possible have access to GP extended opening hours.

23. *Confident Communities, Brighter Futures: A framework for developing wellbeing* (Gateway reference number: 13485)

This framework document outlines how to take forward the first aim of New Horizons: to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the wider population. It aims to encourage the inclusion of mental wellbeing in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and highlights the benefits of early intervention and prevention.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114774

Action:

- NHS and local authority chief executives will wish to consider how this evidence can be used to improve the wellbeing of their local communities.

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24. Meeting the QIPP challenge in partnership (Gateway reference number: 14072)

The National Social Partnership Forum (SPF) has developed a set of jointly agreed core principles on how the NHS can work together to meet the financial challenges ahead. The principles have applicability at all levels in the NHS as health authorities, commissioners and providers, staff and their trade union representatives enter into dialogue within their own health economies to find common solutions to the particular challenges that face them.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114898

Action:

- NHS chief executives are encouraged to adopt these principles when working in partnership with local stakeholders.

25. NHS Premises Assurance Model (Gateway reference number: 14109)

The NHS Premises Assurance Model (PAM) for Acute Services has been released to support the NHS in enhancing the quality and safety of NHS premises whilst also increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Estatesandfacilitiesmanagement/DH_115003

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to consider how this model can support their organisations to improve quality and safety of their premises.

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26. Health Act 2009: Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs) (Gateway reference numbers: 13976 and 14083)

The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 have now been laid and will come into force in May 2010. A summary of responses to this consultation and revised supporting guidance have also been issued.

Links:

Regulations:

www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100914_en_1

Consultation response:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/
Responsestoconsultations/DH_114809](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_114809)

Guidance:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/
Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/
DH_114953](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114953)

Action:

- PCT chief executives will wish to use the supporting guidance when preparing their organisation's first PNA, which must be published by 1 February 2011.

27. Planning and Developing the NHS Workforce: The National Framework (Gateway reference number: 13300)

This document clarifies the national operating system for workforce planning and education commissioning to ensure that it is robust, supports the quality and productivity agenda and fits effectively with the national operating system.

Link:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/
PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114867](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_114867)

Action:

- SHA chief executives and boards may wish to use this report to review their own regional systems.

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28. The Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI)

(Gateway reference number: 14127)

CfWI is a new body that will provide a single, authoritative and expert resource on workforce development planning for all parts of the NHS and social care system. It is central to the strategy for strengthening the workforce planning and development system, as set out in *Planning and Developing the NHS Workforce: The National Framework*.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleasesarchive/DH_114870

Action:

- NHS and local authority chief executives will wish to be aware of the establishment of the CfWI.

29. Colorectal cancer measures (Gateway reference number: 13695)

The colorectal measures have been amended slightly to accommodate the new peer review process. Additional measures for laparoscopic colorectal cancer surgery are also now included.

Link:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_114597

Action:

- NHS chief executives will wish to note the inclusion of these revised measures in the Manual for Cancer Services.

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Conferences and events

i what's new

30. National events for medical trainees (Gateway reference number: 14123)

National events to seek trainee doctors' views and experiences have been organised by Medical Education England, as part of its Next Stage Review commitment to carry out an evaluation of the Medical Foundation Programme. Five events will take place between 4 and 20 May.

Link:

www.mee.nhs.uk/our_work/work_priorities/evaluation_of_2-year_medical_f.aspx

Action:

- NHS chief executives are asked to support trainees taking part in this work to look at the future structure and content of training.

31. Commissioning Shared Learning Event (Gateway reference number: 14128)

The National Cancer Action Team is hosting this event on Friday 16 July at the National Motorcycle Museum, NEC Birmingham.

Link:

www.eventprouk.com/login.php

Action:

- NHS chief executives who wish to attend or nominate a colleague can do so before 1 July via the link above and using the username EP1230 and password NCAT160710.

ii places still available

No news this week

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Patient safety alerts

32. MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT – MDA/2010/017 (Gateway reference number: 13896)

Device: Peripheral cannula. Nexiva closed IV catheter system with Q-Syte connector. Manufactured by Becton Dickinson.

This Medical Device Alert was issued on 8 March 2010 to NHS trusts for **immediate action**.

Further information can be found at:
www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON076050

33. MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT – MDA/2010/023 (Gateway reference number: 14122)

Device: Intracranial stent: SILK artery reconstruction device manufactured by Balt Extrusion and distributed in the UK by Pyramed Ltd.

This Medical Device Alert was issued on 23 March 2010 to NHS trusts for **immediate action**.

Further information can be found at:
www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON076289

34. MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT – MDA/2010/024 (Gateway reference number: 14121)

Device: Endotracheal (ET) tubes, adult and paediatric sizes. Manufactured by Unomedical (a ConvaTec company).

This Medical Device Alert was issued on 23 March 2010 to NHS trusts for **immediate action**.

Further information can be found at:
www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON076290

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Please include name, full contact details and date of change.

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If you would like to make general comments on the week please contact theweek@dh.gsi.gov.uk or by faxing 020 7972 5851 or by writing to Room 444, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Department of Health, London SW1A 2NS.

Ordering DH publications

All DH publications are free – if you wish to order hard copies of any publications mentioned in **the week**, go to www.orderline.dh.gov.uk