



E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 47 - November 2010

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Primary Care News

Choice of GP Practice

Earlier this year the Department of Health held a consultation on whether patients should be able to register with the GP practice of their choice, regardless of where they live. Responses to these plans to scrap GP boundaries were backed by an overwhelming majority of patients. The consultation identified a number of related issues that will now need to be worked through and discussed with the NHS and GPs. The government will provide a formal response setting out the changes necessary to secure the care and services wanted by the vast majority of the thousands of respondents. The government proposes to give people the ability to register with any GP practice from April 2012.

National GP Call Centre Plans Scrapped

Claims that GP receptionists will be replaced by call centres have been dismissed by health minister Lord Howe. A report issued by Foundation Trust Network said the NHS could save £600m by moving appointment booking to 'regional or national GP appointment centres'

New Dentistry Information Online

From November, you will be able to search online for detailed information on dentistry. You can also leave feedback on your experiences. www.nhs.uk

Consultations

White Paper: Liberating the NHS: Two Further Consultations

We are very grateful to all those PPGs who contributed to N.A.P.P.'s responses to the DH consultation. Click [here](#) to view the three submissions on the N.A.P.P. website.

Also on the website are summaries of two more consultation topics on which we intend to respond and would welcome views from PPGs or individual members by **7th January 2011**. The links to the full documents are provided, but we do recommend that you read our summaries which focus on the issues and questions to be considered.

Greater choice and control which sets out the Government proposals "which envisage a presumption of greater choice and control over care and treatment, choice of treatment and healthcare provider becoming the reality in the vast majority of NHS-funded services by no later than 2013/14." http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_119651

An Information Revolution is about "transforming the way information is accessed, collected, analysed and used so that people are at the heart of health and adult social care services." http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120080

GP practices could face fees from CQC

A Care Quality Commission CQC, (regulator for health and social care) consultation to set fees for dental surgeries says GP practices may be in the same category of provider. GPs may be charged for each location if they have multiple or branch practices, the consultation suggests. England's 9,000 GP practices have to register with the regulator from April 2012. The consultation proposes a registration fee of £1,500 for each dental practice, and makes clear GP practices are likely to face a similar deal. Consultation closes 17.01.11, more details: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/yourviews/consultations/registrationfeesscheme.cfm>

NICE Guidelines and Quality Standard Development Group

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is seeking patient representatives for a Guidelines and Quality Standard Development Group which will begin work in 2011 to produce guidance and a standard for the quality of the patient experience expected in the NHS. This Group will be different from other Guideline Development Groups (GDGs) because it will be made up of 50% lay, patient representatives, both individual and from patient groups. Closes 03.12.10

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/13259/51419/51419.pdf

How to apply: www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/joinnwc/MemberPatientExperienceGDG.jsp

National Issues

Department of Health to support carers through personal budgets

The Department of Health has announced that a million adults in need of social care will be given personal budgets to spend on the services they think they need by 2013. In addition, £400 million will be provided for carers to use on family breaks or to pursue hobbies.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_121690

GP Consortia

GP Consortia will be accountable to the NHS Commissioning Board, but it is also vital that there is accountability to local people for spending around £80 billion of public money in the provision of services to the community. Public representatives on GP consortia boards will have a role to develop and champion public involvement in commissioning GP consortia. Patients will require training and support to help them make the most effective contribution. NAPP has recently submitted an application for funding to the Department of Health to help us do this.

The Government's GP Consortia plans were heavily criticised by Clare Gerada, new chairman of the Royal College of GPs. Some of her concerns focused on the fact that the NICE (national institute for health and clinical excellence) role will be passed to GPs and they will be blamed for over-referring and over-prescribing, and forced to limit prescribing, use referral management centres or not be able to refer to named consultants, or consultants at all, under the guise of demand reduction.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/nov/19/doctors-warned-expect-unrest-reforms>

Health Information

Staying Healthy this winter

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/Healthywinter.aspx>

TB on the rise

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has announced a resurgence of Tuberculosis, TB (severe lung infection) in Britain. Those most at risk include people with family associations

to countries with high levels of TB and people whose immunity to infection has been impaired, if left untreated TB can prove fatal. TB is spread through the air when people who have the disease cough, sneeze, or spit and symptoms include fever and night sweats, a persistent cough, weight loss and blood in the phlegm. Awareness of TB and early detection are vital to stop its spread. www.tbalert.org

Scotland

The Scottish Health Council was established in 2005 to ensure that the views of patients, carers and the public are properly taken into account by the NHS. Its role is to improve how the NHS in Scotland involves people in decisions about health services. In addition to a national office in Glasgow, there are local offices in each NHS Board area. This includes working with Primary Care teams to help them develop Patient Participation Groups and to work more closely with established structures such as Public Partnership Forums (PPFs). These forums are networks of local people with an interest in improving NHS services in Scotland.

Evolving Practice

Evolving Practice (www.evolvingpractice.org) is the Scottish Health Council's website for recording and sharing case studies which demonstrate the participation of patients, carers and communities in shaping and influencing local health services. A number of these case studies are about participation in Primary Care.

Participation Toolkit

The Scottish Health Council recently published a Participation Toolkit containing guidance on a range of approaches to involving patients and the public. This resource will be updated to include new and innovative approaches and cross reference them with the case studies in Evolving Practice so that people can see examples of the different approaches in action. Copies of the above documents and information about the Scottish Health Council can be found at www.scottishhealthcouncil.org

'Public Partnership Forums: Involving local people in developing local health services' is a leaflet about Public Partnership Forums (PPFs) – what they are, what they do, and why people may want to get involved in one. It is also available from the website www.scottishhealthcouncil.org/shc/pfpi/PPFs/PPF_Info_Leaflet

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