

E-Bulletin from the National Association for Patient Participation: Issue 33: September 2009

227. PPG Newsletters and Constitutions

In the NAPP Members Survey earlier this year, 49% of Patient Participation Groups said that they were involved in the production/distribution of newsletters. A really interesting selection of these can now be found on our [website](#). Following requests from affiliates, we would like to build on this by hosting a selection of PPG Constitutions. If you have a governing document and are happy to share it in this way, please send it by email to graham@napp.org.uk.

228. New support for carers

[Caring with Confidence](#) aims to make a positive difference to carers and the people they care for, by improving their health and well-being. Limited to England, the newly established service provides support for carers through sessions, designed by carers for carers, where they can learn skills, get advice and information, talk and share experiences. The Caring with Confidence programme is designed to fit around people's lives and caring responsibilities. Carers can pick and choose how many sessions they attend, and how they get involved – from local group sessions to self-study workbooks and online sessions.

229. Free prescriptions for cancer patients in England

PPGs may wish to work with their practices to alert patients to the entitlements of cancer patients in England to free prescriptions. Further details are provided at the Macmillan Cancer Support [website](#). Recent Department of Health research indicates that only a third of the 150,000 eligible patients have applied for an exemption certificate that would allow them to collect their medication free of charge.

230. A couple of reminders

Patient Participation Groups can bid for support from the ***Making a Difference*** fund which will award up to £20,000 in total over the next 9 months. More information and the application form can be found at www.growingppgs.com.

PPG chairs are invited to share their views on the support that they need by completing a very brief [survey](#) online (thank you to everyone who has done so already). Hard copies are available from audrey@napp.org.uk. Please keep in mind that the deadline is 30th September.



Registered Charity No. 292157

231. South West PPG Conference: 2 February 2010

Plans are now well advanced to hold a regional PPG conference in Taunton on 2 February 2010. The keynote speaker will be Dr Michael Dixon, chairman of the NHS Alliance, and the conference will aim to support existing groups and encourage the formation of new ones. More details will follow once the venue is finalised.

232. Networking events

Meadowfields PPG in Derbyshire was kind enough to send us a report of their networking evening with other PPGs from around Derby and including Suzanne Robey from the local Primary Care Trust. 35 people attended and the very open agenda allowed each Group to describe its activities and purpose. Key themes were the variable support from the practices and the great value of such events to share ideas. One key outcome was that several letters and phone calls were received by the host PPG with pledges of help in giving out 30,000 leaflets at Derby County Football Club as part of their Testicular Cancer Awareness Day.

Such networking events are increasingly common and are, in our experience, very popular with PPGs. We would encourage PPGs who do not have access to a local network to contact their Health Board or Primary Care Trust and invite them to facilitate such an event. NAPP can help in the design of the session and would be pleased to present if that was felt appropriate.

233. And finally...

NAPP would like to thank all of our members for their continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Graham Box

Chief Executive (01628 820326)

National Association for Patient Participation

www.napp.org.uk

If you don't wish to receive this ebulletin, please email admin@napp.org.uk and ask to be removed from the list. Please feel free to send us items for inclusion. They should be directed to graham.box@napp.org.uk