Commissioning Intelligence

Commissioning Intelligence is a weekly bulletin written and compiled by the Analytics and Communications teams, with thanks to the King’s Fund.

We monitor key stakeholders on matters affecting clinical commissioning groups and the wider healthcare economy to make sure you’re kept up to date on key developments.

We hope you find this information useful. If you would like to be added or removed from the circulation list please email Public affairs.

NHS News

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): ‘care protect, prevent’
The Department of Health (DH) and NHS England have launched an FGM prevention programme to improve the way the NHS tackles FGM, and to clarify the role of health professionals; to ‘care, protect, prevent’. The measures to tackle FGM include:
- £1.4m funding to launch the FGM prevention programme
- improved data collection across the NHS; to help understand the prevalence of FGM
- improved training packages
- work to clarify the safeguarding role of health professionals.

By September all hospitals must report the number of patients with FGM to the DH on a monthly basis, this is to improve the way the NHS respond and to actively support prevention.

Jeremy Hunt: message to staff about changing culture in the NHS
Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt spoke about his determination to ensure the highest standards of safety and care throughout the NHS and said ‘we have achieved some major milestones.’ He said the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has published guidance on safe and efficient nurse staffing levels on hospital wards, which takes account of the best available evidence from lessons learned in the aftermath of the Mid Staffs enquiry. Nurses have increased by 4,000 and there have been improvements in almost all of the 11 trusts that were placed in special measures. He said, ‘The progress made in these trusts is a direct result of the dedication and determination of staff who have worked incredibly hard to turn their hospitals round and on behalf of all patients, thank you.’

Friends and Family Test expands to all NHS services
NHS England (NHSE) is to expand the Friends and Family Test (FFT) to all NHS services. New guidance has been published after a review of the FFT, which was introduced in April 2013. The review found the FFT had made a positive impact with 78 per cent of trusts saying it had increased the emphasis on patient experience in their trust, but the metric data was ‘widely misunderstood’ by staff and the public. As a result, NHSE plans to move to a more transparent presentation of the data to make it easier for patients and staff to understand and use. From December 2014 the FFT will be rolled out to GP practices, from January 2015 to mental health and community services and from April 2015 to NHS dental practices and patient transport services, as well as covering hospitals, outpatients and day cases.

The European Working Time Directive
The Department of Health (DH) has announced it will consider changes in the NHS under the European Working Time Directive so that doctors can train and work more flexibly. This follows an independent review on the impact and implementation of the working time directive, which found that although it had a beneficial impact by preventing doctors from working too many hours, there were certain specialty areas where doctors worked longer hours voluntarily for training purposes. The contract negotiations for doctors will take into account the recommendations of the review including how training times can form part of the working patterns so that doctors can have appropriate rest times and breaks. The DH will explore all review options including:
- identifying training time that is not working time; explore if training elements could be separated from work-related activities to give doctors more opportunities to train outside of their regular duties and improve their skills
- raising awareness of the voluntary opt-out; to consider ways to opt-out of the 48 hour restrictions for those who wish to
and where it is safe to do so

- reviewing working patterns and rotas; a national programme is being established to provide support to trusts so they can redesign staff rotas and give doctors more time to access training.

Variations in NHS purchasing
The new online [NHS Atlas of Variation: Procurement](#) shows differences in the amount hospitals pay for everyday items and can compare prices and identify where to drive down costs so that more money can be invested in doctors, nurses and frontline care. Health Minister Dr Dan Poulter said that the new league tables will make ‘the NHS a more open and better place in which to do business for small and medium sized businesses’ and that improving procurement practices is about making sure that money is going where it needs to.

Commissioning for quality
An interactive web resource ‘Commissioning for Quality: Views from Commissioners’ has been launched to support CCGs commission high quality services and to improve outcomes for patients. It sets out five key messages that are not standalone actions, but are interconnected when applied together and should make a significant impact on the quality of services: listen to the voices of patients and the public; triangulate data and intelligence; make use of the levers available; walk the service – look and see; and share concerns and take action.

Improve patient outcomes and reducing referrals
The Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine has launched ‘[A Fresh Approach in Practice](#)’ for CCGs, which aims to tackle health problems caused by physical inactivity. It outlines how effective ‘exercise medicine’ can be in tackling common musculoskeletal conditions and save the NHS money. It includes results of pilot services in surgeries, clinics and hospitals.

Consultations

Stopping smoking in cars carrying children
This [consultation](#) seeks views on draft regulations that would prohibit smoking in private vehicles carrying children. The changes would extend existing smoke-free laws to make it an offence to smoke or fail to prevent smoking in a private vehicle with someone under 18 present. The consultation runs until 27 August.

New online

| Audit Commission | NHS audited accounts true and fair but disclose significant financial stress |
| BMJ | HSCIC outlines planned changes for making patient data more secure |
| Healthwatch | Our letter to the Secretary of State: concerns about reduced local accountability arrangements around commissioning |
| HSJ | Updated: Interactive commissioning system map |
| NHS England | Sir Bruce’s pledge on 7-day services |

New guidance and publications

[Centre for Workforce Intelligence](#) - In-depth review of the general practitioner workforce
The Centre for Workforce Intelligence was commissioned by the Department of Health and Health Education England to conduct an in-depth review of the GP workforce in England. This strategic review is designed to provide an evidence base for forecasting workforce demand and supply ahead to 2030.

[Department of Health](#) - Annual Report and Accounts 2013 to 2014
Annual report from Department of Health.

Annual report from NHS England (NHS Commissioning Board).

[NIH](#) - Chronic kidney disease: early identification and management of chronic kidney disease in adults in primary and secondary care (CG182)
This guideline updates and replaces NICE clinical guideline 73 (published September 2008). It offers evidence-based advice on the care and treatment of people with chronic kidney disease.

QualityWatch - Focus on: A&E attendances: Why are patients waiting longer. This report looks at patterns of A&E activity, the nature of the increased demand and what has driven waiting times upwards. The findings raise questions about whether A&E has reached maximum capacity and what options the NHS has to address the situation.

Blogs and opinion pieces

Health Foundation
Four lessons for running impactful collaboratives in health care – Jo Bibby

King’s Fund
What happens when the money runs out? – Richard Murray

NHS Confederation
It’s time to take outcomes-based commissioning out of the ‘too difficult’ box – Dr Rupert Dunbar-Rees

Nuffield Trust
A risk worth taking – Paul Smith

Newly published datasets

HSCIC
Provisional monthly hospital episode statistics for admitted patient care, outpatients and accident and emergency data - April 2014

HSCIC
Provisional accident and emergency quality indicators, England - By provider for April 2014

NHS England
Cancer waiting times annual report, 2013-14

ONS
Healthy life expectancy at birth for upper tier local authorities: England, 2010-12

ONS
Measuring national well-being: Insights across society, the economy and the environment, 2014

Public Health England
Cover of vaccination evaluated rapidly (COVER) programme: quarterly figures

To access some of these, you may need a NHS OpenAthens account: how to create an NHS OpenAthens account

If you would like to discuss the contents of this bulletin, please email: james.lockley@nelcsu.nhs.uk

Contact us