Welcome to the Quality and Safety eBulletin

This eBulletin brings you the latest news from key national agencies and initiatives across the UK, under themed headings.

We welcome your feedback on the eBulletin. Please contact us at: qualityandsafety@rcn.org.uk

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All the latest in quality and safety with the RCN’s Quality and Safety Bulletin.

News story

New mental health resources
All nurses have a responsibility to promote good mental health in order to prevent problems and to support patients who may have a mental illness.

People with mental health problems do not always get the help they need. The RCN is continually working in a variety of ways to tackle these issues.

See: Mental health resources

RCN highlights
RCN Position statement on Domestic Abuse. The RCN aims to better support nurses and midwives working with victims of domestic violence, according to its new position statement. The statement sets out the RCN’s goal to help all nurses and midwives better understand their role and responsibilities around domestic abuse.

https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/domestic-violence-and-abuse
Termination of pregnancy. This guidance has been produced to support registered nurses and midwives working within the NHS and independent sector. It builds on previous work and incorporates expert and evidence-based practice. This framework covers England, Scotland and Wales.

RCN Bulletin 354: August 2017. Catch up with the latest round of payday protests, read about a cruise ship nurse and find out what members do when they’re not nursing, fighting FGM and celebrating professional forums.

RCN gets ready to elect union committee. The RCN has announced the candidates who will stand for election to the new RCN Trade Union Committee. This committee will be accountable to RCN Council and will make decisions on its behalf on all the RCN’s trade union functions and activities.

Proposed changes at BMI Healthcare. BMI Healthcare has confirmed the implementation of its ‘Standard Structures’ project for Nursing throughout August 2017 and the RCN would like to hear feedback from affected members about the proposed changes.

Parliament Square venue for RCN rally. The RCN has announced Parliament Square in London as the location for its Scrap the Cap rally on Wednesday 6 September, 12.30 – 2.30pm. Thousands are expected at the largest event for the RCN’s Summer of Protest, which has already seen two pay day protests across more than 40 UK cities.

RCN supports new pathway to support bereaved parents. The RCN is supporting the launch of the National Bereavement Care Pathway (NBCP). Led by stillbirth and neonatal death charity Sands, the pathway is designed to improve care for parents and families who have lost a baby during pregnancy or up to 12 months after the child is born.

More investment needed in mental health. The RCN says detail and proper funding is needed for the Government to deliver its mental health plans. The Government has committed £1.3 billion to mental health services, with a pledge to treat an extra one million patients by 2020-21.

RCN secures Scrap the cap even in Parliament. MPs from across the political divide will come together to discuss the 1% cap on nursing pay. The drop-in event, which will take place on Wednesday 6 September, will be hosted by Conservative MP and nurse Maria Caulfield.

General practice nursing action plan launched. Framework highlights the contribution and challenges general practice nurses and their teams face. The ten point plan, published by NHS England, sets out actions to deliver a general practice nursing workforce fit for the future.

Cecelia Anim CBE Blog. The NHS is surviving on the goodwill of nursing staff. On 6 September RCN members will host a rally in central London calling on the UK Government to scrap the pay cap. The more members that attend, the stronger our message will be.

Check out the latest RCN Blogs which cover: influencing policy and politics; the RCN’s partnership with the Zambian Union of Nurses Organisation (ZUNO) and the Scrap the cap rallies this September.

Events
Getting Serious About Cardiovascular Disease Prevention 2018: Reducing Variation and Optimising Care conference. 8 February, 2018. This is the fifth annual Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) prevention
conference hosted by Public Health England. The focus of this year’s conference is on reducing variation and optimising care. The website is now open for abstract applications. The purpose of inviting abstracts is to showcase your relevant research and evaluation and provide the opportunity to share your knowledge and learning. The deadline for submissions is 1 October 2017.

https://www.phe-events.org.uk/hpa/frontend/reg/thome.csp

**Quality improvement**

*Audit, reviews, legislation, inspections, regulation*

Care Quality Commission. NHS hospitals to be assessed on how they use their resources from the autumn. The framework sets out the key lines of enquiry, prompts and rating characteristics that both CQC and NHS Improvement will use to review how effectively trusts are using their resources to provide high quality, efficient and sustainable care.


NHS England. Integrating care: contracting for accountable models NHS England. This document gives an overview of the package clarifying how the accountable models may be contracted for.


NHS England. Better Care Fund Planning Requirements 2017-19 FAQ. A set of frequently asked questions to help local areas develop their Better Care Fund plans.


**Guidance, innovation, tools**

Journal of Medical Internet Research. A technological innovation to reduce prescribing errors based on implementation intentions. Although prescribing of medication in hospitals is rarely an error-free process, prescribers receive little feedback on their mistakes and ways to change future practices. Audit and feedback interventions may be an effective approach to modifying the clinical practice of health professionals, but these may pose logistical challenges when used in hospitals.

http://humanfactors.jmir.org/2017/3/e17/

NHS Improvement. Developing trusted assessment schemes. This guide describes how local systems could implement trusted assessment to effectively and safely reduce the numbers and waiting times of people awaiting discharge from hospital.

https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/developing-trusted-assessment-schemes-essential-elements/

NHS England. NHS England announces world’s largest single PrEP implementation trial to prevent HIV infection. NHS England has announced the start of a pioneering implementation trial to provide HIV prevention drugs to people at high risk of HIV infection.


Nursing Times. Specialist nurse innovator urges adoption of hydration risk tool in care homes. An award-winning hydration nurse specialist is urging health and care providers to trial a simple risk assessment tool that has been shown to significantly reduce hospital admissions from care homes.

Public Health England. Better care for people with co-occurring mental health and alcohol/drug use conditions: a guide for commissioners and service providers. This guidance supports local areas to commission timely and effective responses for people with co-occurring mental health and alcohol or drug use conditions.

Public Health England. Falls and Fractures: consensus statement and resources pack. These documents outline approaches to interventions and activities helping prevent falls and fractures to improve health outcomes for older people.

Public Health England. Antenatal and newborn screening: quality assurance procedures. This document sets out the programme specific operating model for quality assurance of the NHS antenatal and newborn screening programmes.

Practice examples and case studies

Local Government Association. A personalised approach to quality assuring care and support. Surrey County Council has a quality assurance team of 4.5 quality assurance managers who undertake monitoring visits to care homes, home care providers and supported living schemes.

Local Government Association. Developing a shared commitment to improving the quality of care. This case study outlines how Herefordshire Council have used their quality assurance framework to ensure that local care and support services provide what individual residents need.
https://www.local.gov.uk/developing-shared-commitment-improving-quality-care

Reports, commentary, statistics

Australian Commission. AURA 2017: second Australian report on antimicrobial use and resistance in human health. To prevent and contain AMR, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) was funded by the Department of Health to establish and coordinate a national surveillance system for Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA). This system is now in place and the Commission is expanding the data collected and analysed to provide reports that will inform policy and practice.

BBC News. Sperm count drop 'could make humans extinct'. Humans could become extinct if sperm counts in men continue to fall at current rates, a doctor has warned. Researchers assessing the results of nearly 200 studies say sperm counts among men from North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, seem to have halved in less than 40 years.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40719743

Department of Health. Government response to the Health Select Committee's inquiry into suicide prevention. The government’s response to the Health Select Committee’s inquiry into suicide prevention responds to the committee’s recommendations for improving delivery of the cross-government suicide prevention strategy.

Department of Health. Adult personal social services: revenue funding 2017 to 2018. This letter clarifies local authority specific revenue funding for the financial year 2017 to 2018, which was subject to the 2015 Spending Review. It provides information on funding for the third year of Care Act implementation, which comes from a range of sources, as well as details of parts of the Better Care Fund.

Foundation for Liver Research. Financial case for action on liver disease: escalating costs of alcohol misuse, obesity and viral hepatitis. This report estimates that alcohol consumption will cause 63,000 deaths in England over the next five years. The modelling further estimates that between 2017 and 2022, the total cost to the NHS of alcohol-related illness and deaths will be £17 billion. [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/nr/alcohol-to-claim-63000-lives-over-five-years-1.718406](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/nr/alcohol-to-claim-63000-lives-over-five-years-1.718406)

Health Foundation. New approaches to value in health and care. Realising the Value was an 18-month programme that aimed to consolidate what is known about person- and community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing, and make recommendations on how they can have maximum impact. [https://www.health.org.uk/publication/new-approaches-value-health-and-care](https://www.health.org.uk/publication/new-approaches-value-health-and-care)


King’s Fund. What are the priorities for health and social care? As the dust settles on the first weeks of the new parliament and ahead of the party conference season, the King’s Fund assesses the state of health and social care and set out the big issues facing the government. [https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/what-are-priorities-health-and-social-care](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/what-are-priorities-health-and-social-care)

NHS England. Improving access for all: reducing inequalities in access to general practice services. This guide, aimed at GP commissioners and providers, is designed to promote understanding of groups in the community who are experiencing barriers in accessing services. It provides resources to help address those barriers as improvements in access to GP services are rolled out. [https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/redesign/improving-access/reducing-inequalities-in-access-to-gp-services/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/redesign/improving-access/reducing-inequalities-in-access-to-gp-services/)

NHS England. NHS England launches plan to drive out wasteful and ineffective drug prescriptions. NHS England has published detailed plans to cut out prescriptions for ineffective, over-priced and low value treatments, potentially saving the NHS more than £190 million a year. A formal public consultation is being launched on new national guidelines which state 18 treatments – including homeopathy and herbal treatments – should generally not be prescribed. [https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/items-routinely-prescribed/](https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/items-routinely-prescribed/)

NHS National Institute for Health Research. Decommissioning health care: identifying best practice through primary and secondary research a prospective mixed-methods study. Although no simple decommissioning formula exists, successful programmes typically address change management and implementation, evidence and information, and relationships and politics. [https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/hsdr/hsdr05220#/abstract](https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/hsdr/hsdr05220#/abstract)

Nuffield Trust. Learning from Scotland’s NHS. This report is the first in a series looking at health systems in each of the four nations in the UK. This report focuses on the Scottish NHS, where its approach seems to solve problems being faced elsewhere in the UK, and whether that approach could be transplanted to the rest of the UK. [https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/learning-from-scotland-s-nhs](https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/learning-from-scotland-s-nhs)

Royal College of General Practitioners. Sexual and reproductive health: time to act. This report warns that years of improvement in the quality of sexual and reproductive healthcare being delivered to patients is at risk due to the bureaucratic, financial and training barriers facing GPs and practice teams.

Patient safety
British Medical Journal. New diagnostic tests: more harm than good. Although new diagnostics may advance the time of diagnoses in selected patients, they will increase the frequency of false alarms, over-diagnosis, and overtreatment in others.
http://www.bmj.com/content/358/bmj.j3314

Bulletin of the World Health Organisation. The third global patient safety challenge: tackling medication-related harm. This challenge aims to reduce the global burden of iatrogenic medication-related harm by 50% within five years. A number of priority areas that most affect patients have been identified. These include high-risk situations, polypharmacy and transitions of care.
http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/95/8/17-198002.pdf

Department of Health. Patient safety visits. The Secretary of State, Jeremy Hunt writes about why patient safety is a priority, and the different approaches taken by different hospitals.

e-Learning for Healthcare. e-Learning for Harm Free Care. e-learning for Harm Free Care is an online educational resource designed to support frontline teams in delivering harm free care, as defined by an absence of four common harms: pressure ulcers, harm from falls, urine infections in patients with a catheter, and venous thromboembolism (VTE).
http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/harm-free-care/

Guy's and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust. The Guy's and St Thomas' safety card. Guy's and St Thomas' award-winning 'airline style' patient safety card is now available for all NHS trusts to use. There is also a short film intended to help patients stay safe while they are in hospital.

International Journal for Quality in Health Care. Reporting of medication administration errors by nurses in South Korean hospitals. This study aimed to identify differences in what nurses consider as medication administration errors, to examine their willingness to report these errors and to identify barriers to reporting medication errors by hospital type.
https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/article/4054193/Reporting-of-medication-administration-errors-by

Point of Care Foundation. Behind closed doors: can we expect NHS staff to be the shock absorbers of a system under pressure? This briefing highlights concerns that the pressures within the NHS are placing staff under stress and at risk of burnout and the impact that this could have on patient safety.

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Improving the working environment for safe surgical care. This discussion paper outlines a number of critical recommendations to government to greatly improve safety in the delivery of surgical treatment and patient care. The report notes factors adversely affecting morale, including a lack of team structure, poor communication, high stress levels, and limited training opportunities.

Evidence-based practice
NICE. Parkinson's disease in adults. This guideline covers diagnosing and managing Parkinson's disease in people aged 18 and over. It aims to improve care from the time of diagnosis, including monitoring and managing symptoms, providing information and support, and palliative care.
NICE. New quality standards published. NICE has published new quality standards for Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s and chronic kidney disease in adults.

NICE. NICE has published new and updated indicators for general practice and commissioning groups. NHS England and other organisations can use the NICE menu to identify suitable indicators for national and local indicator frameworks. The indicators have been tested for use at CCG level.

NICE. Autistic national register. NICE is calling on GPs to develop a national autism register to ensure autistic people receive the tailored care they need. The register will mean patients on the autistic spectrum will be easily identifiable to healthcare professionals working within the GP surgery.

National Institute for Health Research. Advancing care: research with care homes. This review reports on three themes relating to the care of older people in care homes: maintaining good health and quality of life, managing long term conditions associated with ageing, and ensuring a good quality end of life. It features published and ongoing studies alongside views from care home staff and researchers.

NIHR Signal. Type 2 diabetes is becoming more common in children. The number of children being diagnosed with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes is rising. New analysis in this NIHR-supported study suggest that type 2 diabetes now accounts for up to a third of diabetes diagnoses in children.

NIHR Signal. Physical activity in the community improves mobility for cancer survivors. Programmes to encourage physical activity for people with cancer at home or in local communities have a positive impact on physical function. The studies mostly included older people with breast cancer, in whom these small improvements may be important.

National Institute for Health Research. Obsessive compulsive disorder. This Highlight features research into psychological and pharmacological treatment options and new research on using self-help materials, combined with modest levels of support from mental health practitioners.

Public Health England. Dementia in older age: barriers to primary prevention and factors. These evidence reviews, authored by the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics, aim to aid commissioners and researchers make decisions about prioritisation of primary prevention measures relevant to dementia. The reviews find evidence that changing some behaviours in midlife can reduce the chances of getting dementia in older age.

Public Health Research & Practice. A new issue of Public Health Research & Practice has been published. This issue is a special edition examining the theme of cancer screening, and the concerns, controversy and evidence around its benefits and potential harms.

SIGN. SIGN guidelines on cardiovascular disease. SIGN guideline 149: Risk estimation and the prevention of cardiovascular disease and SIGN guideline 150: Cardiac rehabilitation are part of a set of six coronary heart disease guidelines being updated by SIGN over the course of 2016–2018.
**Patient focus**

BBC News. Hepatitis B added to routine baby injections. All babies born from Tuesday across the UK will have an anti-hepatitis B injection added to the other routine vaccinations they are given in their early life. The jab protects against viral infections that cause cirrhosis and liver cancer. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40774911](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-40774911)

British Medical Journal. The use of patient feedback by hospital boards of directors. Although previous research suggests that different kinds of patient feedback are used in different ways to help improve the quality of hospital care, there have been no studies of the ways in which hospital boards of directors use feedback for this purpose. [http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2017/07/28/bmjqs-2016-006312](http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2017/07/28/bmjqs-2016-006312)

Critical Care Nurse. Patients' hand washing and reducing hospital-acquired infection. Hand hygiene is important to prevent hospital-acquired infections. Patients' hand hygiene is just as important as hospital workers' hand hygiene. Hospital-acquired infection rates remain a concern across health centres. [http://ccn.aacnjournals.org/content/37/3/e1](http://ccn.aacnjournals.org/content/37/3/e1)


National Voices. Member briefing: Brexit. National Voices is a member of the Brexit Health Alliance, a group of organisations convened by the NHS Confederation and including industry, professional bodies and patient organisations. This briefing explains the priority areas of concern for the health and care sector as Britain leaves the European Union, and explains the role the Brexit Health Alliance is seeking to play. [https://www.nationalvoices.org.uk/publications/our-publications/member-briefing-brex](https://www.nationalvoices.org.uk/publications/our-publications/member-briefing-brex)

NHS England. Improving Access for all: reducing inequalities in access to general practice services. To support commissioners and providers of general practice services, NHS England has produced a practical resource which aims to promote understanding of groups in the community who are experiencing barriers in accessing services. [https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/improving-access-for-all-reducing-inequalities-in-access-to-general-practice-services/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/improving-access-for-all-reducing-inequalities-in-access-to-general-practice-services/)

Patient Experience Journal. A special issue of the Patient Experience Journal (PXJ) has been published. This special issue focused on Patient Involvement. The editors state that "By including the voices of patients, practitioners and researchers in the publication, this special issue is focused on how involving patients and families as partners drives better healthcare outcomes overall." [http://pxjournal.org/journal/vol4/iss2/](http://pxjournal.org/journal/vol4/iss2/)

Patient Experience Journal. The paradigm of patient must involve. This essay reviews the role of paradigms in moulding the thoughts of a scientific field and looks rigorously at what two key terms mean – empowered and engaged – and how their interaction points to a new way forward, requiring a re-examination of our "paradigm of patient." [http://pxjournal.org/journal/vol4/iss2/2/](http://pxjournal.org/journal/vol4/iss2/2/)

Public Health England. Public Health England urges people to get free testing for hepatitis C. A substantial number of the 200,000 people living with hepatitis C (hep C) infection may be unaware they have the virus. Public Health England is encouraging people to get tested and have included a list of criteria for anyone who is concerned. [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-encourages-hepatitis-c-testing](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-encourages-hepatitis-c-testing)

Public Health England. Falls and fractures: consensus statement. This document outlines approaches to interventions and activities helping prevent falls and fractures to improve health outcomes for older people. The RCN is a member organisation of the National Falls Prevention Coordination Group.
Welsh Government. Additional £1m for End of Life Care. Health Secretary, Vaughan Gething has announced an additional £1m to further enhance End of Life Care services in Wales. The fund will go towards supporting the delivery of the End of Life Care Delivery Plan 2017-2020.


eHealth

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. Government to strengthen UK data protection law. In a statement of intent the Government has committed to updating and strengthening data protection laws through a new Data Protection Bill. It will provide everyone with the confidence that their data will be managed securely and safely.


Digitalhealth.net. New review highly critical of NHS Digital’s capabilities. A critical internal review of NHS Digital has found the organisation relies on out of date technology, has skill shortages in multiple areas and its data services are operating below expectations.


Digitalhealth.net. 25,000 patient radiology records affected in HSE computer system. It has been revealed that a data fault has affected 25,000 patient records and diagnostic images in the Health Service Executive (HSE) computer system. Patients may have to have scans carried out again as a result of the fault in Ireland’s national radiology information system.

https://www.digitalhealth.net/2017/08/25000-patient-records-affected-hsc-computer-system/

Journal of Medical Internet Research. Using Digital Technologies in Clinical HIV Research. “Digital technologies, especially if used in novel ways, provide a number of potential advantages to clinical research in trials related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and may greatly facilitate operations as well as data collection and analysis”.

http://www.jmir.org/2017/7/e274/

Journal of Medical Internet Research. Modelling patient treatment with medical records. Health care is a complex sociotechnical system. Patient treatment is evolving and needs to incorporate the use of technology and new patient-centred treatment paradigms. Cognitive work analysis (CWA) is an effective framework for understanding complex systems, and work domain analysis (WDA) is useful for understanding complex ecologies.

http://humanfactors.jmir.org/2017/3/e16/

National Data Guardian. Developing a consensus on data sharing to support NHS clinical genetics and genomics services. This paper outlines the key issues arising from an evidence session which was held to explore whether and how the NDG might help to address concerns about the legitimacy of genomic data sharing within the NHS for direct care and routine service delivery.


NHS Digital Academy. Top universities to host new academy which will train digital healthcare leaders of the future. Three of the world’s top universities will provide virtual masterclasses in leadership and digital as part of a comprehensive programme to provide NHS staff with the right skills to drive digital innovation.


Storify. Storify is a social media tool that lets you create stories or timelines from a variety of social media resources like Facebook and Twitter, as well as other web resources. You can use it to pull together information on whatever you want, and can customise it how you want, then share your story on the site with your colleagues and friends on those social media sites.

https://storify.com/
GP Forward View: assessment of progress - year 1. This report assess the progress on the first year of implementation of the General practice forward view.
The report finds that there has been progress on many areas, notably on additional investment but warns that the government recruitment commitment of 5,000 GPs may need to be reconsidered. [http://www.rcgp.org.uk/policy/general-practice-forward-view.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/policy/general-practice-forward-view.aspx)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Professional standards for pharmacy services consultation. Feedback and comments are being sought on these updated hospital pharmacy standards. The standards outline what a high-quality hospital pharmacy service should look like and aim to support the development of a transparent and open culture. This consultation closes on 11 September 2017. [https://www.rpharms.com/news/details//Have-your-say-on-our-new-hospital-standards](https://www.rpharms.com/news/details//Have-your-say-on-our-new-hospital-standards)

Scottish Government. Nursing 2030 Vision. The Nursing 2030 Vision sets out the Chief Nursing Officer’s aspiration and is a long term strategy to shape the future of the nursing workforce, preparing a nursing workforce that will be ready and able to meet people’s need as we move toward 2030. [http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/07/4277](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/07/4277)