Launch of the NHS Patient Safety Strategy

The first national NHS Patient Safety Strategy has been launched setting a vision of continuous safety improvement, underpinned by a safety culture and effective safety systems. Its strategic aims commit to a series of actions to support the NHS to save more lives and the costs associated with patient safety incidents. The strategy emphasises the need to support staff and look at systems rather than blaming individuals when incidents occur. Key features include a safety syllabus and training for all staff, a new incident management system, the involvement of patients and a national patient safety improvement programme.

Announcements

NHS Commissioners recognised in NHS Parliamentary Award 2019 Shortlist

NHS regional teams across England announced the individuals and teams chosen as regional champions in the NHS Parliamentary Awards 2019, with the work of NHS commissioners represented in 60% of the categories. The champions, including NHS volunteers, patients, local council health teams and the creators of extraordinary digital innovations, will now compete for a national award to be presented at a special ceremony in the Palace of Westminster in July. The NHS Parliamentary Awards, supported by FUJI Film, recognises the massive contributions made by those who work in and alongside the NHS. The shortlisted nominees are published on the NHS Parliamentary Awards website.

Medicines and medical products supply: government updates no-deal EU Exit plans

The government has confirmed further details of its plans to maintain the supply of medicines and medical products in the event of a no-deal EU Exit. These include procurement exercises to secure extra freight capacity, continuing the build-up of buffer stocks, securing extra warehouse space and a range of additional measures. Find out more about the government's multi-layered approach to maintaining continuity of supply.

Interested in building sustainable quality and service improvement capacity and capability within your organisation or health system?

The latest Quality, Service Improvement and Redesign (QSIR) College cohort is now open for application by NHS organisations and health systems. Please note applications need to come from organisations/systems rather than individuals. The QSIR College prepares and accredits NHS staff to teach QSIR programmes to other staff within their organisation, or across their health system. There are currently 187 accredited QSIR associates, supported by an executive sponsor, working within 62 NHS organisations and across eight health systems. Further information is available on the NHS Improvement website.

Action

Wheelchair services data collection: quarter four 2018/19 dataset published and additional question for quarter one 2019/20

Wheelchair data for January to March 2019 is now available for CCGs to review their performance. Data collection for
quarter 1 is now open and includes an additional question (9): Have you transitioned from a voucher system to a personal wheelchair budget? Updated guidance is available. Any questions should be directed to england.wheelchairs@nhs.net

Publications

Action Plan on Hearing Loss: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Guidance and Hearing Loss Data Tool published

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Guidance and a Hearing Loss Data Tool, have been co-produced by NHS England, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Public Health, Public Health England, hearing loss charities and public health leaders. The guidance and data tool combine evidence and timely data on hearing loss so that local authorities and NHS commissioners can include hearing needs in local joint strategic needs assessments and make informed decisions on how local services can meet the needs of their populations.

Updated guidance for CCGs on Items which should not be routinely prescribed in primary care published

NHS England and NHS Clinical Commissioners have published updated commissioning guidance for CCGs on items that should not be routinely prescribed in primary care. This follows a public consultation which took place between 28 November 2018 and 28 February 2019. The updated guidance now includes: aliskiren, amiodarone, dronedarone, minocycline, needles for pre-filled and reusable insulin pens for diabetes, bath and shower emollient preparations and silk garments. The recommendation on rubefacients has also been updated so that capsaicin cream can be prescribed in line with NICE guidance. For further information please visit the NHS England website or contact england.medicines@nhs.net

Latest patient feedback on experience of hospital stays published

More than 76,000 people who spent a night in hospital responded to the Care Quality Commission’s Adult Inpatient Survey 2018. Most (83%) rated their experience as at least 7 out of 10, but 2% fewer than in 2017 gave a score of 9 or 10. In line with NHS Long Term Plan commitments, we are running a number of national programmes involving work with trusts to help them make better use of feedback from a range of patient experience sources, including surveys, by using tools such as Making Data Count.

Events

Health and Care Innovation Expo 2019

The agenda for Health and Care Innovation Expo 2019 is now available, with high-profile speakers from across the NHS, social care, local government, the voluntary sector and industry, focusing on the most important challenges and developments across health and social care. There are also opportunities to engage directly with leaders and innovators in the limited-capacity theatre sessions and pop-up university workshops. All NHS and local government staff can register for free via the Expo website – register now to book your theatre and workshop places to avoid disappointment – the most popular fill up fast.

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