



Registered Charity No. 292157

E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 70: January 2013

Happy New Year!

1. N.A.P.P. News

- a. The theme for the **annual conference** at the MShed in Bristol on June 8th will be **Primary Care in the digital age: What does it mean for patients and quality and continuity of care**. The programme, details of registration and costs will be provided to all PPGs as soon as we are in a position to do so.
- b. **Corkill Award:** Details of the **2013 PPG of the Year** will be in the Members' area of the N.A.P.P. website by the end of January. Following from the 2012 entries we received, the criteria have been clarified to focus on four key activities. This year, only online entries will be considered. Scanned or hand-written forms cannot be accepted.
- c. **PPG Awareness Week: June 3rd-8th**. We shall be providing posters, car stickers and templates for our member PPGs to use to highlight PPGs activities locally to recruit new members, and nationally to raise awareness across the UK of the benefits to both patients and their practices of having an effective PPG. Please get in touch with us if you have any ideas which we can incorporate in the campaign, or if you have you have expertise in advertising, marketing, publicity or the media.
- d. **N.A.P.P. Autumn /Winter Newsletter is in the Members area of the website**. You need the password to access it, so if you do not have it yet, follow the instructions on the website to obtain n one for your PPG. Printed copies will reach you in February.

2. CCGs strain to hear the voice of patients

A new [report](#), based on interviews conducted in October and November 2012, with 18 people from six CCGs, including the clinical lead accountable officer and lay board members, provides a snapshot of attitudes to and readiness for effective engagement. There was a high level of awareness and enthusiasm for the principle but underlying lack of effective engagement with patients and the public. A key finding of the study '**Embedding patient and public engagement in CCGs**' raises questions about their ability to translate good intentions into effective plans and to hold their nerve when unpopular decisions need to be made and anxieties about PPE in practice. The link leads to a summary and the entire report, a printer-friendly version and a video with input from our Chief Executive, Stephanie Varah.

3. GP Contract proposals: possible rollover of the Patient Participation DES

As mentioned in the December bulletin, the proposed new GP contract includes a possible one-year rollover of the Patient Participation DES. Some Patient Reference Groups are currently threatened with disbandment by practices which formed the PRGs to obtain the funding which they attract. Negotiations between the BMA and NHS employers are in progress. If the extension survives in the contract in April 2013, it may give successful PRGs time to prove their worth and begin to engage in activities beyond the narrow confines of the six DES targets. Access a summary GP contract [outline](#) and [BMA's response and quick guide](#)

4. RCGP video on telehealth

Both telehealth and telecare help patients with long term conditions take greater control of their health. A number of resources including a new telehealth [video](#) from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) highlight some of the key reasons why clinicians are recommending telehealth for their patients. Leaflets include [Supporting your independence and wellbeing with Telehealth and Telecare](#) which raises awareness of the benefits of both services and explains the difference between them. The leaflet is available **free** - details [here](#) .

5. Impact of digital technology in health and social care

Potential benefits to staff and patients of greater use of information and digital technology in the NHS and social care are outlined in a study commissioned by the Department of Health from Price Waterhouse Coopers. It found that measures such as more use of text messages for negative test results, electronic prescribing and electronic patient records could improve care, allow health professionals to spend more time with patients and save billions of pounds. Read the [summary](#) and download the full report.

6. Action plan for improving the use of medicines and reducing waste

Some PPGs have contacted N.A.P.P expressing concern on this topic. A report commissioned by the Department of Health examines how the NHS is working to improve use of medicines and tackle avoidable medicines wastage. The [action plan](#) outlines how best practice could be shared across the NHS in the future and identifies how everybody – not just pharmacists, GPs and care home staff, but also patients and the public – can stop avoidable medicines wastage. It builds on the findings of a November 2010 report entitled 'Evaluation of the Scale, Causes and Costs of Waste' which can also be accessed from the above link.

7. Plans for NHS to be paperless by 2018 (for those who want it)

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt wants the NHS to be paperless by April 2018 to save billions, improve services and meet the challenges of an ageing population. Patients should have compatible digital records so their health information can follow them around the health and social care system. At a patient's GP, hospital or care home, the professionals involved could see their history and share crucial information. He set deadlines for those who wish it,

- to get online access to their own health records held by their GP,
- for adoption of paperless referrals by email– instead of sending a letter to the hospital,
- plans to enable secure linking of these electronic health and care records wherever they are held, so there is as complete a record as possible of their care
- plans for those records to be able to follow individuals, with their consent, to any part of the NHS or social care system
- by April 2018 – digital information to be fully available across NHS and social care services, barring any individual opt outs. [Read more](#)

7. Make full use of PPG membership: get your N.A.P.P. member password now!

Key resources for all member PPGs can be viewed in the Members area of the website. Each PPG has a single username and password to be used by all its members, but not to be divulged to others. To obtain the password please visit the website, click on Members and follow the instructions on the screen about emailing to get to get your username and password. You will receive an email from server@serifwebresources.com entitled 'Create a NAPP Members section Account'.

If you experience any problems, please contact edith.todd@napp.org.uk

8. Reminder:

Please forward this bulletin to fellow members as promptly as possible.

We do not send hard copies of e-bulletins.

All previous e-bulletins and Newsletters are available on our website at www.napp.org.uk

Stephanie Varah,

Chief Executive

January 2013