



Registered Charity No. 292157

E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 72: March 2013

1. N.A.P.P. News

a. Corkill Award 2013 - PPG of the Year: deadline 12th April

Details in the Members' area of the N.A.P.P. website www.napp.org.uk.

Please remember that

- Only online entries will be considered.
- Scanned or hand-written forms cannot be accepted.

b. Annual Conference 'Primary Care in the digital age: What does it mean for patients and quality and continuity of care?'

The conference is in Bristol on June 8th and registration is now open to all, both members of N.A.P.P. and others. As you will see from most of the items in this bulletin, the theme of the conference is in tune with many of the developments in the management of General Practice and the effects it may have on patients experience. Details of the programme and registration at <http://www.napp.org.uk/conferences.html>

c. PPG Awareness Week: June 3rd - 8th: Get involved!

Lead by Chief Executive, Stephanie Varah, a small team of PPG members and trustees have developed a resource pack, including templates for publicity and ideas to help PPGs to be involved, organise events, publicise their existence and what they do and recruit more members. The pack will be available in mid April.

Dr Phil Hammond will support and promote the event in the media, highlighting the role and benefits of PPGs to patients, the public and health professionals to create more understanding of the value of true patient participation and also to promote the support available from N.A.P.P. More about the event in the website 'News' section

Do tell us about any events or your suggestions for further publicity.

2. Consultation on Personal Health Budgets

One way of managing a personal health budget is a direct payment for healthcare, where money is given directly to an individual for the management of their NHS care. They are currently only lawful within DH approved pilot sites. Proposed changes to regulations would enable this to be offered across the country, including extending the use of direct payments, are based on learning from the recent pilot programme and discussions with personal health budget holders, healthcare professionals and other organisations.

Contribute your views on these proposals [here](#) in the online consultation process which ends on 26th April 2013

3. New patient guidance on online records

On this same topic, and to ensure that patients understand their electronic health and care records and how to access and share them securely, the Chartered Institute for IT and the Department of Health have launched [Keeping your online health and social care records safe and secure](#). Aimed specifically at patients and the public, the guidance explains what health records are, how to protect them and share them safely. This guidance is available for download free of charge from NHS Choices in [booklet](#) and [single page summaries](#). It is not possible to obtain this in hard copy.

4. The 'Patient online: The Road Map' launched by RCGP

This [summary](#) of the guidance, launched by the Royal College of GPs on 6th March, provides to support GP practices to provide online access for patients. It is also vital that PPGs and practices work together to ensure that their patients are well informed and aware of both benefits and hurdles to be negotiated.

The Department of Health's Information Strategy '[The power of information: Putting all of us in control of the health and care information we need](#)' has stated that by 2015:

- all general practices will be expected to make available electronic booking and cancelling of appointments, requesting of repeat prescriptions, viewing of test results, communication with the practice and access to records
- all NHS patients will have secure online access, if they want it, to their personal GP records

5. The Social Media Highway Code

Published last October and approved by the RCG in February, this first-ever practical and encouraging guide should help doctors and other healthcare professionals to navigate their way around the ethical and confidentiality dilemmas of social media and ensure that they get the most out of their online communications, while ensuring they meet their professional obligations and protect their patients.

Some members of PPG have asked for N.A.P.P.'s views on the use of Facebook or Twitter, where similar issues of confidentiality apply. This guide offers practical guidance, sets out the benefits and risks and provides basic information about all the issues relevant to PPGs.

[Download the document here](#)

6. Get your N.A.P.P. member password now!

The Members' pages of the N.A.P.P. website contain **key resources available only to affiliated PPGs and CCGs**. For login details for use by all the members of your PPG, (but not to be divulged to others), visit the website, click on Members and use the screen instructions. The response will come from server@serifwebresources.com

7. Apology

Please accept our apologies for the late distribution of this bulletin, which has appeared after the end of the month, due to separate personal circumstances and health issues affecting both Chief Executive and administrator. The April issue will be back on track.

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

March 2013