



Registered Charity No. 292157

E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 66 September 2012

1. New N.A.P.P. Website - new passwords

Our website is being given a complete makeover and the result is expected to be online on October 1st. We hope that the transition will be a smooth one, but there is a strong possibility that the site will be inaccessible for about 24 hours between 28th September and 1st October. **Member area passwords will all change.** If you have already applied for a password, you should receive an email with the new login details. Please contact edith.todd@napp.org.uk if you experience further problems.

2. Functions of Clinical Commissioning Groups

A document issued recently, [The functions of clinical commissioning groups](#), is an update to an earlier edition (published in March 2011 on The Functions of GP Commissioning Consortia: a Working Document), and reflects the final content of the Health and Social Care Act. It provides a helpful and accessible summary to which GPs and emerging CCGs can refer. It sets out

- the key statutory duties of CCGs – the ‘must dos’
- the key statutory powers – the things that CCGs have the freedom to do, if they wish, to help meet these duties.

Patients may also find it to be a useful and straightforward guide to the complex issues in the Act. It will be helpful in informing the planning and implementation of CCG responsibilities.

3. Join the conversation on how to strengthen the NHS Constitution

The NHS Future Forum, which is advising the government on how the [NHS Constitution](#) might be strengthened, is keen to get input from patients, staff and the wider public. Members of the Future Forum will explain what the NHS Constitution means to them and discuss ways of strengthening it on a [blog](#) launched earlier this month

A revised edition of the constitution was published, along with a useful [Handbook](#), in March 2012. It sets out what patients, staff and the public can expect from the NHS in England.

- patient and staff rights
- the pledges the NHS is committed to achieve
- the responsibilities that patients, staff and the public owe to one another and to the health service.

4. Improving Access to GP practices in Scotland

[Patients First](#), a report from think tank Reform Scotland examines the practical arrangements regarding how patients access their GPs and whether these could be improved to encourage a provision of service more suited to patients’ needs.

5. NHS Choices

NHS Choices has produced a set of short videos highlighting the value of online patient feedback. The videos include real stories of how services have benefited from online feedback, a guide for patients on providing worthwhile feedback and advice from the Medical Protection Society on accessing services. [Read more](#)

6. Launch of Healthwatch England website

The website for [Healthwatch England](#) has recently been launched. It will provide information during the implementation phase for Healthwatch and will be updated ready for the launch of Healthwatch England in October. You can view the website at www.healthwatch.co.uk Anna Bradley, a past Chief Executive of The National Consumer Council, was recently appointed as the chair of Healthwatch England. — She also has long experience as a regulator, having been a Director at the Financial Services Authority, the Chair of two professional regulators, an organic certification body and the Ofcom Consumer Panel.

7. Further news on revalidation of doctors

Early this month, The GMC informed the Health Select Committee that revalidation remains its top priority and should begin at the end of the year. Subject to the Secretary of State for Health's decision to switch on the legislation before the end of 2012, the GMC will begin to tell each doctor the date when they can expect to revalidate and undergo regular checks on their skills and performance. [More...](#)

8. Patient Experience Measures

A report on integration from [NHS Future Forum](#) recommended that new patient experience measures should be developed to evaluate patients' experiences across whole journeys of care, known as 'integration'. Existing surveys often apply to single points on the journey i.e. GP, outpatient visits, inpatient treatment and community care are evaluated separately. Seven core questions that relate to integration of care have been identified from existing surveys. NHS organisations can use the answers to these questions to develop a sense of how patients feel about integration between services locally at present [Details here](#)

9. Personal health budgets easy read leaflet published

Personal health budgets is one of the ideas that the NHS is working on to try to make it easier for people to get the NHS care that is best suited to them. The Department of Health has published an easy-read version of the personal health budgets pilot programme information leaflet. The [leaflet](#) is for people being offered a personal health budget, and can be used by healthcare professionals, commissioners, and support organisations. It explains what a personal health budget is, and includes answers to frequently asked questions, personal stories and further sources of information

By April 2014, subject to the pilot's independent evaluation, everyone receiving NHS continuing healthcare will have the right to ask for a personal health budget, including a direct payment for health care

10. NICE guidance to speed up patients' access to new drugs and treatments

At the end of August, the Department of Health announced an [initiative](#) which will help remove inconsistencies which can see geographical variations in access to new drugs and treatments. NHS organisations will have to comply with NICE guidance on new drugs and treatments or explain any delay to patients.

11. 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
September 2012*