



Registered Charity No. 292157

E-Bulletin

National Association for Patient Participation

Issue Number 57 November 2011

1. Helping people to take care of themselves

NAPP is the patient champion for the Self Care Forum & is co – hosting the Annual Self Care Forum Conference taking place on November 8th. This is not a forum for those with long term conditions. It is for everyone - about keeping fit and healthy, as well as how to take medicines, treat minor ailments, and seek help when you need it. If you have a long term condition, self care is about understanding that condition and how to live with it on a daily basis. To learn more, use this [link](#)

Self Care Week 2011 from 14-20th November aims to help people to take care of themselves by learning more about what's available to help them look after their own health better. This year's campaign builds on the success of Self Care Week 2009 and 2010 and is being run in partnership with the Self Care Forum (www.selfcareforum.org), whose members are all committed to embedding self care in all walks of life.

2. Get ready for winter

The '[Cold weather plan for England](#)', a cross-Government initiative launched on November 2nd reminds local communities how best to keep people healthy and warm in their homes. The focus is on helping the most vulnerable by providing information on all aspects of keeping safe and well in winter via the [Getting Ready for Winter](#) pages which give suggestions for the simple things you can do to help you and your family keep warm, healthy and safe through the cold weather – as well as saving money.

The [Warm Front Scheme](#) now makes an extra £10 million available to support existing Government schemes for those at risk of fuel poverty – for example grants for insulation or heating improvements.

3. Patient Choice

A new patient [survey](#) of 5,000 people has been carried out by an independent research company on behalf of the Department of Health. It suggests that the public wants more say and greater choice over how and where they are treated and who provides their NHS hospital care.

4. Raising awareness of PPGs with Local Healthwatch organisations

PPGs may be interested in the summary list outlining details of the 75 HealthWatch (HW) pathfinders which has recently been published. The document can be found [here](#)

PPGs may wish to make contact with Pathfinders in their area to ensure that Local HealthWatch organisations, which will replace the current local LINKs, are aware of PPGs & their role & that an effective local relationship can be developed recognising the distinct contributions that PPGs make in engaging with patients in general practice.

5. Physician Assistants in Primary Care: Participate in a focus group

The Faculty of Health & Social Care Sciences, St. George's, University of London & Kingston University has approached N.A.P.P for involvement in a research study to investigate the contribution Physician Assistants (PA) can make in primary care. The details of the project are [here](#) The invitation can be viewed by [double clicking on the icon below](#). PPG members are required to participate in a focus group discussion on this topic in early 2012. **Please circulate this request to your PPG** – if anyone is interested & would like more information please contact Edith Todd: edith.todd@napp.org.uk



Physician Assistant
Research.doc

6. Making difficult choices: ethical commissioning guidance to general practitioners

This [guidance](#) from the Royal College of General Practitioners is aimed at GPs who will have a role in Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), formerly known as GP Consortia. It provides advice on ethical issues which may arise in the process of commissioning for GPs such as how to allocate resources fairly and addressing potential conflicts of interest. It could also be relevant for those PPG members who are likely to be involved on CCGs.

7. What is Good Medical Practice? Have your say.

Throughout 2011, the GMC (General Medical Council) has encouraged debate and discussion about what is good medical practice today and what makes a good doctor.

The publication **Good Medical Practice** is the GMC's core guidance for all doctors and sets out the standards, principles and values expected of doctors. It plays a vital role in keeping patients safe and improving professional standards. The GMC aims to ensure that it remains up-to-date and relevant to doctors in their day to day practice. During a major public consultation, patients are invited to give their views to help shape the new draft of the guidance. You can take part by completing an online questionnaire on the [GMC website](#). Of three questionnaires, the most appropriate is [the questionnaire for patients and the public](#). Please respond by **10 February 2012**.

With both medical practice and medical education changing rapidly and following a similar publication in 2010, the GMC has also published a second report to provide an evolving picture of medicine in the UK and plans to publish it annually. **The State of Medical Education and Practice in the UK Today** uses their own data and that of others to provide a picture of the medical profession today and some of the challenges it faces. We hope that it will stimulate debate and action to improve medical practice in the UK. [Read more](#)

8. Ask your Pharmacy

Many people are unaware of the range of services available to them in neighbourhood pharmacies. Ask Your Pharmacy Week (November 7th-13th) is part of the National Pharmacy Association's on-going work to show community pharmacies as an expert health and wellbeing resource as well as an effective medicines supply service. A new website www.askyourpharmacy.co.uk tells you more.

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