

ABOUT THIS BULLETIN

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WHAT'S NEW

Swine flu updates

This is a rapidly developing situation. To ensure you receive the latest information, make sure you are getting the CMO alert. Up-to-date information can also be found on the DH website. An information leaflet has been delivered to all members of the public – please refer patients looking for further information to the NHS Choices website. This situation has highlighted the need for us to have an up-to-date email address for all GP surgeries. If you are a practice manager and receive the bulletin in hard copy, please provide us with an email address. This mailing list is only used for the bulletin, the BNF guide and emergency communications.

LINKS & INFO

- Visit NHS Choices for up-to-date health advice
- Visit the DH website

Integrated care pilots announced

On 1 April, DH announced the 16 sites selected to pilot ways of delivering more integrated care across primary care, community health services, acute care and social care. All the pilots are based around GP practice populations and are professionally led.

In Cumbria, a pilot is increasing collaboration between GPs and patients to help people with chronic diseases manage their own care in a community setting and reduce hospital admissions.

And in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly PCT, primary care, secondary care and social care services are uniting to set up a GP-led memory clinic supported by a team of practice-based case managers and dementia care advisers. The aim is to increase early diagnoses, reduce admissions to hospitals and care homes and help people live independently for longer. John Ingle, GP Dementia Specialist at Narrowcliff Surgery says: 'We are delighted to have had our initiative in this area recognised. Dementia is a condition that we believe has been traditionally under diagnosed and, consequently, some patients and their carers have missed out on appropriate care and support. One of the key factors behind the project's success has been that, from the start, the scheme has been initiated, implemented and led by the Newquay GPs.'

The £4 million integrated care pilot programme will assess the benefits of different approaches to providing integrated care and identify best practice that could be used more widely.

LINKS & INFO

- Read more

National support network for practice managers

The DH is currently working with a number of stakeholders to develop a national support network for managers in general practice. The group is looking to identify, develop and test innovation and good practice. Practice managers are encouraged to register their areas of interest using a subscriber form on the website. Organisations involved in the project include the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), the Family Doctor Association, NHS Alliance, National Association of Primary Care, Institute for Healthcare Management and the Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers, Administrators and Receptionists.

LINKS & INFO

- Register your practice

NHS Leadership Awards

Have you visited the NHS Leadership Awards website? You have until 29 May to nominate one of your peers or partners.

LINKS & INFO

- Visit the website for more information

**WHAT'S NEW
continued**

Guidance on transforming community services

High Quality Care for All made a commitment to support the NHS in developing modern, consistently high-quality community health services that are responsive to patients' and communities' needs. To achieve this vision, PCTs are commissioning services and reshaping their provider organisations so that they and their staff are empowered to focus on quality. The DH has published guidance to support the NHS in making local decisions on the governance and organisational models that will best support this wider vision. *Transforming community services: enabling new patterns of provision* highlights the importance of PCTs involving local clinicians and practice-based commissioners in the process as early and as fully as possible.

LINKS & INFO

- [Access the guidance](#)

NHS Health Check

As of 1 April, PCTs began phased implementation of the NHS health checks programme for people aged 40 to 74 to assess their risk of developing coronary heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. This programme, which will be fully implemented by 2012/13, is part of the wider drive towards more preventative care in the NHS and to reduce health inequalities. PCTs are working with GP practices, community pharmacies and other local healthcare providers to design local implementation plans. The NHS health checks are set out in the DH's report published on 6 April, *Healthy weight, healthy lives: one year on*. It covers the progress made since the Government's obesity strategy was published in January 2008 and sets out priorities for the future.

LINKS & INFO

- [Read more about health checks](#)
- [Read the best practice guidance on health checks](#)
- [Read the One year on report](#)

Report on urgent care in general practice

The DH has announced the publication of a sponsored report, *Urgent care: a practical guide to transforming same-day care in general practice*, which has the support of the British Medical Association and the RCGP. It focuses on the range of practical steps general practice can take to improve patient care and safety, and to manage demand to reduce pressure on practices and reduce emergency hospital admissions. The report was prepared by the Primary Care Foundation and an advance electronic version is available, with a printed version for practices and PCTs to follow.

LINKS & INFO

- [Download the report](#)

Accreditation of GPwSIs

From 1 April, general practitioners with special interests (GPwSIs) who are actively providing a service must be accredited by their PCT. If you haven't already undergone this accreditation, please contact your PCT to ensure that processes are carried out as soon as possible. A number of GPwSI frameworks have been produced by the RCGP to support the delivery and accreditation of services in primary and community settings. The frameworks, which were commissioned by the DH and launched in September 2008, draw on good practice and experience nationally and are intended to offer best practice for the development of local services. While they do not cover every special interest, they all contain good principles, as described in the DH's *Care Closer to Home Framework*.

LINKS & INFO

- [Find out more about accreditation](#)
- [Access the Care Closer to Home Framework](#)

Care Quality Commission comes into effect

On 1 April, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) took over responsibility for regulating the quality of health and adult social care and protecting the interests of people detained under the Mental Health Act. The commission is responsible for registering providers of health and social care to ensure they are meeting essential common quality standards, and this will apply to GP services from 2011. The CQC was established by the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and combines the work of three previous watchdogs: the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission.

LINKS & INFO

- [Visit the CQC website](#)