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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Bulletin No. 32 / 6 August 2010

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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Information

Date of next HOSC meeting: Friday 3 September 2010, 9.30 am.

Location: Council Chamber, Sessions House.

Main Agenda Items:

- 1) Update on SECamb's Make Ready Depot Programme.
- 2) The Future of PCT Provider Services and the Use of Community Hospitals

Internal Meetings:

HOSC Agenda Planning Meeting: Wednesday 1 September 2010, 10:00 - 12:00

Location: Darent Room, Sessions House.

The pre-meeting for the HOSC Meeting on Friday 3 September will take place prior to the above Agenda Planning Meeting: Wednesday 1 September 2010, 9:00 - 10:00, Darent Room, Sessions House.

Visits:

HOSC Members' Visit to Disablement Service Centre, Gillingham: 20 October 9.30 - 12.00.

Health in Kent

Advice about sun and skin

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent is urging people to protect their skin in the sun with a new campaign, the 'Don't Be A Debbie' poster and campaign is aimed at young women who take chances with their skincare while trying to get that perfect summer tan and features a prematurely aged woman.

Karen Mackinnon, Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, said: "Damage from the sun can cost you more than just your looks"

See:

[Protect your looks and your health](#)

Department of Health

The Department for Health has released the CNO Bulletin for July 2010. The bulletin aims to provide updated information about relevant issues in the NHS which will be of specific interest to nurses, midwives and health visitors. In addition, the Bulletin will also offers signposting or further detail about particular issues.

See:

[CNO Bulletin](#)

The role of GPs set out in the White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence'

The GP and Practice Team bulletin, July 2010 sets out the opportunities and responsibilities in the NHS White Paper. The bulletin argues that GPs, working with other health and care professionals, will be crucial to delivering the vision laid out in the White Paper, 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS'. In future, people will have the confidence of knowing their GP is not only their advocate in the healthcare system, but also part of a wider group of health and care professionals – a commissioning consortium – whose job it is to ensure that empowered patients have access to the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

See:

[What the White Paper means for GPs](#)

Department of Health responses

The Department of Health (DH) has published DH responses to the public's comments on the three documents:

['The Coalition: Our Programme for Government on the NHS.'](#)

['The Coalition: Our Programme for Government on social care and disability'](#) ['The Coalition: Our Programme for Government on public health.'](#)

Olympic and Paralympics Games 2012

The Department of Health (DH) has published a letter from Clare Chapman, Director General Workforce, which outlines and supports the process for volunteers for both medical and non-medical roles for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games.

See:

[The Olympic and Paralympics Games July to September 2012](#)

[Olympic Games 2012 call for volunteers: Q&A guidelines for employers](#)

Review of reference cost collection

The Department of Health, in partnership with the Audit Commission, has conducted a review of reference cost collection to ensure it is fit for purpose.

The review looked at both the uses and quality of the data with the main objective of ensuring that in the longer term the Department only collects and publishes relevant good quality data.

For all the relevant documents:-

See:

[Review of reference costs](#)

Chief Executive Sir David Nicholson has set out NHS reconfiguration guidance

NHS configuration guidance has been sent in a letter by Chief Executive Sir David Nicholson. The guidance outlines the criteria for existing and future NHS reconfigurations as set out in the revised Operating Framework for 2010-11.

See:

[NHS Reconfiguration guidance](#)

Department of Health estate alert regarding the safety of unsecured medical gas cylinders

The Department of Health (DH) has issued an estates alert regarding the safety of unsecured medical gas cylinders.

See:

[Unsecured medical gas cylinders, including cylinders on trolleys](#)

Revised 'Principles and rules for co-operation and competition (PRCC)'

The Department of Health (DH) has revised the document '[Principles and rules for co-operation and competition \(PRCC\)](#)' in commissioning and provision of NHS services.

The PRCC were first issued under the 2007/08 Operating Framework and are intended to support cooperation and competition in the interests of patients and taxpayers in relation to:

- Commissioning and procurement
- Cooperation and collusion
- Conduct of individual organisations
- Mergers and vertical integration.

For all the relevant documents:-

See:

[Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition](#)

Revised 'Procurement guide for Commissioners of NHS funded services'

The Department of Health (DH) has produced a revised '[Procurement Guide for Commissioners of NHS funded services](#)' which supersedes both the previous edition published in March 2010 and the elements of Commercial Skills of the NHS concerned with the procurement of clinical services.

The guide sets out expectations of commissioners on the use of procurement to improve services for patients, including:-

- Investment in new service models or significant additional capacity.
- Upon expiry of existing contracts.
- Where services fail to improve through contract management

The Guide has been reviewed to ensure it is consistent with the White Paper: Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS which set out the Government's strategy for the NHS including the commitment that, wherever relevant, patients should have a choice of any willing provider that meets NHS standards, within NHS prices.

For all relevant documents:

See:

[Procurement guide for commissioners of NHS-funded services](#)

Further wave of 'Right to Request' NHS projects

The NHS arm of the scheme 'Right to Request' has been given a boost by Care Services Minister Paul Burstow with the go-ahead for 15 additional projects that will form the second wave of NHS organisations that want to set up social enterprises.

The new projects, which will build on the first wave of Right to Request projects, spans two thirds of Strategic Health Authorities and include a wide range of services like increasing access to psychological therapies, improving end of life care and a wider range of children services.

See:

[Big society boost for NHS enterprises](#)

Parliament

House of Commons Select Health Committee

The House of Commons Select Health Committee has published the Minutes of Evidence which were ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 20 July 2010.

See:

[Health Committee Minutes of Evidence : Responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Health](#)

Care Quality Commission

Safer management of controlled drugs

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) third annual report '[The safer management of controlled drugs: annual report 2009](#)' on progress made in implementing regulations, argues that Health and social care organisations are continuing to develop systems and services, manage controlled drugs more effectively and to share information on concerns and best practice at a local and national level.

See:

[Health and social care services are monitoring controlled drugs more effectively, says CQC](#)
[Report shows improvement in safe management of controlled drugs](#)

Other Health Information

The Human Genetics Commission has released a new framework which aims to ensure the public are protected from false reassurances from genetic testing services

A new framework, has been published by the Human Genetics Commission (HGC), which aims to ensure that the public have confidence in genetic testing kits. This will ensure that customers who are given false reassurances about their future health from genetic testing services will receive better protection, as the guidelines will require companies to follow basic principles of consent, data protection, truth in marketing, scientific rigour and balanced interpretation.

Key principles in the new framework include:

- Tests for serious hereditary diseases – like Huntington's and Breast Cancer – should only be provided with the offer of counselling both before and after testing.
- Companies must make clear what the possible outcomes of taking a test are and what patients can do about it.
- Simple, easy to understand information on how genetic testing works should be provided.
- Claims made about tests should be supported by evidence, which is published in scientific journals.

See:

[Crackdown on genetic test services](#)

PCT World Class Commissioning assurance results, 2009 / 10

As the Department of Health has not published the World Class Commissioning (WCC) assurance results this year, the NHS Confederation PCT Network has analysed results across the country and produced a report 'PCT World Class Commissioning assurance results 2009/10' which analyses aggregate PCT scores on governance and the WCC competencies.

See:

[PCT World Class Commissioning assurance results 2009/10](#)

[Second year world class commissioning scores show significant improvement by PCTs](#)

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