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Health in Kent

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent is supporting Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) awareness month this April, and urging East Kent people to get their persistent tummy troubles checked with their GP as they could be suffering from a long term condition.

More than 10 % of people in East Kent will suffer with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) at some point in their lifetime. The condition, which is the second most common ailment in the UK, is usually associated with stress and can cause severe disruption of a sufferers' daily life.

See:

[Don't let your tummy make you irritable](#)

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DOH) has released guidance on 43 indicators for quality improvement for voluntary, local use in a community setting.

The guidance '[Transforming Community Services: demonstrating and measuring achievement: community Indicators for quality improvement](#)' introduces 43 indicators to assist local service improvement and help to raise the standard of care delivered to patients and communities.

See:

[Transforming Community Services: Demonstrating and Measuring Achievement: Community Indicators for Quality Improvement](#)

The Department of Health has produced update guidance '[Ordinary Residence: guidance on the identification of the ordinary residence of people in need of community care services, England](#)'.

The guidance provides information and advice to local authorities with social services responsibilities and other organisations and explains how to decide where a person is ordinarily resident for the purposes of the National Assistance Act 1948 and certain other legislation. In addition, the guidance sets out how to identify where responsibility lies between authorities for the funding and/or provision of care for people aged 18 and over who are assessed as needing social care services.

The Department of Health (DOH) has released updated guidance describing overarching principles for the design of adult medium secure inpatient services.

The guidance '[Environmental design guide: adult medium secure services](#)' aims to inform commissioners and providers of medium secure services who are considering new developments and the extension or refurbishment of existing facilities.

The Department of Health (DOH) has released a guidance publication designed to support the application of the NHS performance framework and to inform strategic health authorities and the regional system managers when they should intervene to address poor performance.

The guidance '[The NHS Performance Framework: Implementation guidance - 2011/12](#)' is a performance management tool for use within the NHS. It has been designed to strengthen existing performance management arrangements, with a view to supporting all organisations to provide the highest quality of care.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[The NHS Performance Framework: implementation guidance 2010/11](#)

Government

As part of the listening exercise on NHS modernisation, representatives from the voluntary sector have shared their views with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Health Secretary Andrew Lansley at Downing Street.

The NHS Future Forum, tasked with driving engagement in the listening exercise forward will be chaired by Professor Steve Field and include patient representatives, clinicians, health experts and representatives from the voluntary sector.

See:

[Government embarks on national tour to listen to views on NHS plans](#)

[Voluntary sector share views on NHS modernisation at Downing Street listening event](#)

[Working together for a stronger NHS](#)

The Department for Transport (DfT) has released guidance on the carriage of dangerous goods.

DfT define dangerous goods as any goods that pose a risk to people, property and the environment are classified as dangerous goods and are assigned to different classes ranging from 1 to 9.

The DfT also set out four modes of transport by which dangerous goods are carried.

See:

[Carriage of dangerous goods](#)

The Government's response to the 20 recommendations in Frontline Care: the report of the Prime Minister's Commission on the Future of Nursing and Midwifery in England.

The response to 'Frontline Care' was made by Anne Milton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health on behalf of the Government, who argued that the report had much to commend it, but did not go far enough.

The Minister argued that Britain has on-going developments that need to be met, and the executive will need to rise to these challenges to build on the past and ensure nursing and midwifery care is always given with compassion, commitment and confidence.

See:

[The Government's response to the recommendations in front line care](#)
[Front line care](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has released the delegated legislation which provides directions on the payment of allowances to GP trainers.

The legislation is provided by sections 8(1), 272 (7) and 273(1) of *The National Health Service Act, 2006a*. The Directions are cited as Strategic Health Authorities Concerning GP Registrars (Amendment) Directions, 2011.

See:

[Strategic Health Authorities concerning GP Registrar \(Amendment\) Directions 2011](#)

Care Quality Commission

Sir David Nicholson, Chief Executive of the NHS has issued a letter which indicates that the launch of HealthWatch and HealthWatch England will now take place 'no earlier than July 2012'.

Sir David cites the 'listening exercise', launched on April 6th in a natural break of the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, as the cause of delay. 'Because of the pause in the legislative process and...subject to the results of the listening exercise and the passage of the Bill, all of the statutory changes which were due to take place in April 2012 will take place no earlier than July 2012.'

See:

[Update on the progress of HealthWatch](#)
[Working together for a stronger NHS: Leaflet](#)

Other Health Information

Ofsted has released a report which looks at serious cases and the importance of listening to children in such cases.

The report '[Listen to the voice of the child](#)' argues There are five main messages with regard to the voice of the child. In too many cases:

- the child was not seen frequently enough by the professionals involved, or was not asked about their views and feelings.
- agencies did not listen to adults who tried to speak on behalf of the child and who had important information to contribute.
- parents and carers prevented professionals from seeing and listening to the child.
- practitioners focused too much on the needs of the parents, especially on vulnerable parents, and overlooked the implications for the child.
- agencies did not interpret their findings well enough to protect the child.

See:

[The voice of the child: learning lessons from serious case reviews](#)

The UK has one of the highest rates of stillbirths across the high-income nations, with 3.5 per 1,000 births, placing us 33rd in the table of countries.

The rates have fallen by around 17% since a similar report in 1995, but other countries have had a higher fall, so the UK has been dropping behind. Only France and Austria have worse figures amongst the higher income countries. The rates vary across the country, but 30% of stillbirths have no identifiable cause.

The full report will be published in the Lancet, but an [executive summary](#) is available online.

Also see:

[‘UK stillbirth rates among highest of rich nations’](#)

The Childhood Obesity National Support Team has been visiting local health economies and has produced a document identifying four high impact changes which could help address obesity in local areas.

The four suggested changes are:

- Building local intelligence – better use of local datasets with wider sharing of the information and mapping of the data.
- Harnessing existing community resources within local healthy weight pathways – better use of existing resources and highlighting opportunities which may be missed in some areas.
- Workforce development – helping staff know the contribution they can make and ensuring they are confident and effective.
- Workforce health – staff should act as role models and lead by example

The [full document](#) is available from the NHS website.

Following a competition to pilot a Drugs Strategy Payment by Results (PbR), eight areas, including Kent, will test innovative new ways to help drug addicts achieve a sustained recovery.

The successful pilot sites put forward innovative ideas for new payment models for drugs recovery that will take forward the PbR approach, and will begin to work with the cross government PbR drug recovery project team to co-design detail of the pilots, which will be effective from October 2011.

See:

[Drug Strategy 2010](#)

[Radical approach to drugs recovery piloted](#)

A new report by the UK National Bariatric Surgery Registry claims to show for the first time the positive benefits on a number of diseases of bariatric surgery.

The report includes outcomes from 8,710 operations carried out in the NHS and private sector. A BMJ news item discussing the report notes that around two-thirds of severely obese patients had three or more associated diseases by the time they reached surgery (data from 86 hospitals), including 32% with hypertension, 27% with type 2 diabetes and 17% with high cholesterol. By 12 months after surgery, the figures dropped to 20%, 13% and 8%, respectively, and after two years 86% of those with diabetes prior to surgery had no indication of the disease (i.e. were able to stop their medications).

See:

[Type 2 diabetes 'cut' after weight-loss surgery](#)

[NHS Confederation comments on bariatric surgery report](#)

The NHS Confederation has produced a briefing paper which summarises the main points of the Department of Health (DOH) report 'Talking therapies: a four-year plan of action'.

The briefing [‘Talking therapies: a four year plan of action’](#) outlines the key questions that boards should be asking.

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