

Health Information Bulletin No. 16 / 29th April 2011.

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Health in Kent

The independent watchdog, Monitor, which regulates foundation trusts, has argued that there are concerns about Medway NHS Trust, which was in "significant breach" of the terms relating to its foundation trust in terms of status, board level scrutiny, financial planning and performance.

Monitor has said they would consider a formal intervention unless the trust's board took action and made progress.

Dr David Bennett, who chairs Monitor, said: 'We've taken this decision due to concerns about the level of board challenge on financial issues and about the trust's plans to return to a stable financial footing'.

See:

[Medway NHS Trust criticised over finances by watchdog](#)

Department of Health

Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer and David Flory, Deputy NHS Chief Executive has written to all acute trusts to alert them to the announcement made by Simon Burns, the Minister of State for Health, that mandatory surveillance will be extended to *E. coli* bloodstream infections from 1 June 2011.

The decision was based on advice from the Department of Health's Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (ARHAI). To support organisations in implementing the decision, Health Protection Agency guidance and information on data input and definitions will be made available in the near future.

See:

[Extension of mandatory surveillance to *E. coli* bloodstream Infections - June 2011](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has published a letter from Jim Easton, National Director for Improvement and Efficiency who aims to pilot a product pricing pilot for the NHS.

The Director argues that the intention of the Product Pricing Project is to share pricing information on a small sample of products. He urges NHS Trusts to join the Product Pricing Project in order to find out how prices of clinical products compare from Trust to Trust.

See:

[Price benchmarking and reducing non-pay spend](#)

Following the successful dry run last year for third-party assurance for Foundation Trusts' Quality Accounts, the National Quality Board asked that a similar dry run be carried out for NHS Trusts in 2010-11.

The Department of Health (DOH) this year require NHS Trusts (not including ambulance or community trusts) to undergo a dry run of gaining external assurance on their 2010-11 Quality Accounts, and have the agreement of the Audit Commission to mandate the organisation's appointed auditors to undertake the work and provide external assurance to management.

To facilitate this, NHS Trusts involved in the third party assurance dry run should provide the auditors with a signed Statement of Director Responsibilities in respect of the 2010-11 Quality Account.

See:

[Statement of Directors' responsibilities in respect of the Quality Account](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has released two document that provides commissioners and providers with best practice guidance on screening and the vaccination of babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers and antenatal screening and new born immunisation programme.

The documents contain guidance for commissioners in improving the uptake rate of existing infant hepatitis B immunisation programmes for newborns who are at risk of hepatitis B infection. But the guidance should be considered as supplementary to UK National Screening Committee and National Institute of Clinical Excellence guidance.

See:

[Hepatitis B: Pathway stages to protection: actions, roles, responsibilities and standards: the safest way to protect the health of you and your baby](#)

[Hepatitis B antenatal screening and newborn immunisation programme:](#)

[Best practice guidance](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has released the March statistics relating to situation reports on critical care beds, cancelled operations and delayed transfers of care.

Key findings from the statistics are:

- There were 3,679 adult critical care beds available with 3,065 occupied in March 2011. This compares to 3,677 available and 3,033 occupied in February 2011.
- The number of urgent operations cancelled was 237 in March 2011. This compares with 248 urgent operations cancelled in February 2011.
- The number of delayed transfers of care for March 2011 is 4,174 and the total number of delayed days in the month was 122,392. This compares with 4,441 delayed transfers and 111,604 delayed days in February 2011.
- Of those 4,174, 2,296 were acute patients and of the delayed days 65,976 were acute.

DOH also note that this publication previously included Accident and Emergency attendances. These figures are now published on a weekly basis and can be found via the following links:

[Emergency Activity and Critical Care Capacity March 2011](#)

[Acute and Non-Acute Delayed Transfers of Care](#)

[Weekly A&E and Ambulance Activity](#)

Following an open competition which was moderated by the Appointments Commission, the Department of Health has appointed Mr Jerry Cope to serve as the new Chair of the NHS Pay Review Body from 1 April 2011.

Commenting on Mr Cope's appointment, Andrew Lansley, The Secretary of State for Health said: "I am pleased with the appointment of Jerry Cope to the NHS Pay Review Body."

See:

[NHS Pay Review Body: appointment of new Chair](#)

The department of Health (DOH) has released statistics for 48 Hour Genitourinary Medicine Access Monthly Monitoring (GUMAMM) for month ending 28th February 2011.

The data indicates the number of first attendances to a genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinic for each clinic provider, how many of these attendances were offered an appointment within 48 hours and how many were seen within 48 hours.

Main findings are:

- The percentage of 1st appointments offered within 48 hours was 99.86% for February 2011, it was 99.88% for January 2011.
- The percentage of 1st attendances seen within 48 hours as a proportion of the total number of 1st attendances was 87.32% for February 2011, it was 88.82% for January 2011.
- The total number of 1st attendances was 122,483 in February 2011 which is 6,124 per working day, it was 6,200 per working day in January 2011.
- The total number of attendances was 170,925 in February 2011 which is 8,546 per working day, it was 8,439 per working day in January 2011.
- The collection covers 142 NHS providers & 2 Independent Sector providers that are responsible for 205 GUM clinics providing type 3 services.

See:

[Sexual health: latest data](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has released data on all breaches (i.e. occurrences of unjustified mixing) of the Mixed-Sex Accommodation (MSA) guidance relating to English NHS-funded patients in hospital sleeping accommodation during March 2011.

Key points from the data include:

- Providers of NHS-funded healthcare reported 5,446 breaches of the MSA guidance in relation to NHS patients in sleeping accommodation in England during March 2011, compared to 7,583 in February 2011.
- MSA data were submitted by 287 provider organisations for March 2011, made up of 75 (out of 75) Acute Non-Foundation Trusts, 71 (out of 92) Acute Foundation Trusts, 78 Community, PCT and Care Trust providers, 46 Mental Health providers and 17 Independent Sector providers.
- Of the 146 Acute Trusts that submitted data for March 2011, 76 (52%) reported zero sleeping breaches. Acute Trusts accounted for 5,349 (98%) of all reported sleeping breaches.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Statistical press notice: Mixed-sex accommodation breach data](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has published the Chief Nursing Officer Bulletin April 2011.

The Bulletin offers up-to-date information about NHS news and developments of particular interest to nurses, midwives and health visitors.

See:

[Chief Nursing Officer bulletin](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has issued weekly situation reports on accident and emergency, and ambulance activity for 17th April 2011.

See:

[Weekly A&E and Ambulance Activity](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has published a letter from Alistair Burns, National Clinical Director for Dementia, notifying PCT (Primary Care Trust) Medical Directors of a proposed data collection exercise to construct memory services, as part of a National Audit of Dementia Services.

Collection of data is and the audit being undertaken by the NHS Information Centre on behalf of the Department of Health.

See:

[National Audit of Dementia Services – Establishment of Memory Services](#)

Government

The Prime Minister David Cameron and Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley have met with representatives from the Foundation Trust Network at Downing Street as part of the listening exercise on NHS modernisation.

A key theme for discussion was how to improve accountability within the NHS. As part of the NHS, but independent from central Government, Foundation Trusts are directly accountable to their patients, staff and the local community. This scenario enables anyone to become a member of their local hospital and elect their own representatives to put forward their interests at Board level ensuring the hospital is accountable and responsive to local need.

The Government wants all NHS Trusts to become Foundation Trusts by 2014.

See:

[Prime Minister and Health Secretary listen on NHS accountability](#)

Parliament

On 26th April, the House of Commons Select Health Committee will hold the third oral evidence session on Complaints and Litigation.

The [Terms of Reference](#) for the inquiry were issued on 4 November 2010.

See:

[Complaints and Litigation](#)

[MPs ask front line staff about complaints and litigation in the NHS](#)

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Westminster Hall

[Coroners \(Recording of Suicides\)](#)

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HOUSE OF LORDS

Tuesday, 26th April 2011

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Other Health Information

A US study published in the journal PloS ONE argues that a controlled diet high in fat and low in carbohydrate can repair kidney damage in diabetic mice.

The laboratory study used mice with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and argued that their research indicated that a 'ketogenic diet' could reverse damage caused to tubes in the kidneys by too much sugar in the blood.

But Diabetes UK argue that it is 'questionable' whether humans could sustain the diet.

See:

[Diet 'can reverse kidney failure' in mice with diabetes](#)

Lyn Hill-Tout, the new leader of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has argued that when she takes over from the current Trust chief executive, Anthony Sumara, there will be no cover up of past mistakes

Stafford hospital experienced a higher than expected number of deaths between 2005 and 2008, and is part of public inquiry looking at the role of regulatory bodies. Ms Hill-Tout said she wanted to spend regular time at the inquiry to hear what had been going on, so that she could use the knowledge to take the Trust forward.

See:

[Stafford Hospital Inquiry: 'No cover up of mistakes'](#)

[The Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry](#)

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