

Health Information Bulletin No. 19 / 20th May 2011

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Health in Kent

East Kent Hospitals University Trust has spent £1.5m the Da Vinci robot, a four-armed robot that helps surgeons operate with more precision than they would have using their hands.

The machine, which is to be officially unveiled at the hospital this Friday is argued to be a 'major advance' and will principally be used to treat prostate cancer.

See:

[Kent hospital unveils £1.5m 'robot surgeon'](#)

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DOH) has released quality criteria designed to support and improve the suitability of NHS and public health services for young people.

The young people friendly criteria and guidance builds on the Royal College of General Practitioners' (RCGP) initiative 'Getting it right for teenagers in your practice, and includes a self-review tool. The package is designed to be used by services across England including primary, community, specialist and acute health services.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

['You're Welcome' quality criteria will help health services become more young-people friendly](#)

See also:

[Self-review tool for quality criteria for young people friendly health services \(2011 edition\)](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has released the December 2010 MORI Tracker Survey of Public Perceptions of the NHS and Social Care.

The survey '[Public perceptions of the NHS and social care: an on-going tracking study conducted for the Department of Health, December 2010 wave](#)' argues that public satisfaction with the NHS remains high (70%) but is drifting downwards as non-users become more critical.

Key highlights include:

- For the first time in five years more people think the NHS will get better (34%) than worse (32%).
- The vast majority (79%) of the public agree that GPs are best placed to understand which services their patients need, showing that 47% of people think that greater GP involvement will make the NHS better compared with 20% who think it will get worse;

The Department of Health (DOH) has produced a leaflet on the Allied Health Professional Service (APH) Project which details the aims of the project, the services involved and illustrates the outcomes and learning from the project.

The AHP Service Improvement Project which was completed in March 2011, demonstrates how AHPs can improve clinical outcomes and patient experience through innovation in service delivery that both improve quality and increase productivity.

In addition, the report summary and compendium provide details of improvements for children and adults in the 27 participating services including engagement with patients and carers in redesign of services.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[Allied Health Professions Service Improvement Project](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has released a guide to the Eatwell Plate resources.

The Eatwell Plate is a policy tool that defines the Government's recommendations on healthy diets. It makes healthy eating easier to understand by giving a visual representation of the types and proportions of foods needed for a healthy and well balanced diet.

For all the relevant documents:

See:

[The eatwell plate resources](#)

The Department of Health (DOH) has produced the latest monthly National Statistics on NHS Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting times for the month ending March 2011. The statistics include data for England, Primary Care Trusts, Strategic Health Authorities, and NHS Trusts.

The key points from the latest release are:

- Data are published on consultant-led Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting times for patients who were treated during March 2011. In total, 338,620 admitted patients and 952,293 non-admitted patients, for whom English commissioners are responsible, completed their RTT pathway during March 2011.
- The average (median) time waited for patients completing an RTT pathway in March 2011 was 7.9 weeks for admitted patients and 3.7 weeks for non-admitted patients.
- The 95th percentile time waited for patients completing an RTT pathway in March 2011 was 23.4 weeks for admitted patients and 15.8 weeks for non-admitted patients. (See Statistical Note number 6).
- At national level, 89.6% of admitted patients (measured on an adjusted basis) and 97.3% of non-admitted patients completed their RTT pathway within a maximum of 18 weeks.
- For patients still waiting for treatment (incomplete pathways) at the end of March 2011, the median waiting time was 5.5 weeks and the 95th percentile was 25.4 weeks.

See:

[Referral to treatment waiting times statistics \(admitted patients, non-admitted patients and incomplete RTT times\), March 2011](#)

Government

The Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley has committed the Department of Health (DOH) mitted to funding Cancer Networks in 2012/13.

Speaking at the launch of the Anglia Cancer Network's 'Be Clear onCancer' campaign, Mr. Lansley argues that the networks provide expertise to help commissioners, providers and patients work together to plan and deliver high quality cancer services. The Minister also announced that, beyond 2012/13, the NHS Commissioning Board will support strengthened Cancer Networks.

See:

[Government commits funding to maintain vital Cancer Networks](#)

The Government has announced plans to strengthen the protection of vulnerable adults by making a legal requirement for all local authorities to have Safeguarding Adults Boards, and has produced a document which sets out Government policy on safeguarding vulnerable adults.

The document '[Statement of Government policy on adult safeguarding](#)' includes a statement of principles for use by local authority Social Services Departments, as well as housing, health, the police and other agencies for both developing and assessing the effectiveness of their local safeguarding arrangements.

See:

[Government to seek legislation to protect society's most vulnerable people](#)

Parliament

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday 16th May 2011.

Written Answers

[cancer: drugs](#)
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Debates and Oral Answers

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Westminster Hall

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Westminster Hall

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Written Answers

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[Health](#)

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Luxembourg 6-7 June 2011)

Written Answers

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[departmental mobile phones](#)
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HOUSE OF LORDS

Monday 16 May 2011

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[Children: Parenting](#) – *Question*

Written Answers

[Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis – Questions](#)
[Health Research Authority - Questions](#)
[Health: Cancer - Question](#)

Other Health Information

The National Audit Office has published a report which argues that the National Programme for IT in the NHS, particularly the Care Records programme, does not present good value for money and may still not benefit patients or doctors.

The report '[Department of Health: the National Programme for IT in the NHS: an update on the delivery of detailed care records systems](#)' argues that the rate at which electronic care records systems are being put in place across the NHS under the National Programme for IT is falling far below expectations and the core aim that every patient should have an electronic care record under the Programme will not now be achieved.

See also:

[Department of Health: the National Programme for IT in the NHS: an update on the delivery of detailed care records systems: executive summary](#)
[National Audit Office criticises NHS IT as poor value for money](#)

In a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* 42 family doctors, leading 1,100 practices across England, have called on the Government to press ahead with the Health and Social Care Bill,

The GPs. argue that much of the criticism of the Bill has been misinformed and that the Government's modernisation plans will make the health service more effective and accountable.

See:

[GPs praise benefits of Health and Social Care Bill](#)
[Health reforms 'will benefit most vulnerable in society'](#)

New data published at hospital level reports that fewer patients stay in mixed sex wards, and mixed-sex breaches fell by 77 % since December 2010.

Key points from the data indicate:

- In April 2011, providers of NHS-funded healthcare reported 2,660 breaches of the MSA guidance compared to 5,446 for March 2011, a decrease of 51 %.
- Of the 166 Acute Trusts that submitted data, 59% reported zero breaches, compared to 52% in March 2011
- 59 Acute Trusts who submitted breaches in March 2011 reported a reduction in the number of breaches in April 2011. These organisations reported 3,500 breaches fewer breaches than last month.
- 18 Acute Trusts reported an increase in breaches.

See:

[Dramatic drop in patients staying in mixed sex accommodation](#)

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