

# POLICY UPDATE

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CANCER SUPPORT

## April 2014

Welcome to 'Policy Update', a monthly bulletin on the latest policy developments of relevance to those with an interest in cancer.

If you are reading this document on screen, the web addresses are hyperlinks which will take you directly to the relevant web pages or documents. If you would like any further information or have any questions or comments about 'Policy Update', please contact Anna Baranski, Policy Analyst, on 020 7840 2452 or email [ksalarkia@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:ksalarkia@macmillan.org.uk)

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# UK-wide

## **The four health systems of the UK: how do they compare?**

A report by the Nuffield Trust and the Health Foundation released this month has assessed the performance of the NHS on the quality of patient care in all four UK countries since devolution. The research is the only longitudinal analysis of its kind, building on a previous report published by the Nuffield Trust in 2010 and revised in 2011.

This latest report gives trends over time for a wide range of performance indicators and showed that there have been performance improvements in all four nations over the last two decades; the performance gap between England and the other nations has narrowed; and that across all four nations life expectancy has increased.

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# England

## **'Encouraging' improvements in people's hospital experiences**

According to a national survey from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) people are generally having a better experience during their hospital stay than a year ago. Although the quality of their stay can vary, around one in four people rated their hospital stay as 10 out of 10.

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## **'Transforming Primary Care'**

'Transforming Primary Care' was published by the Department of Health and NHS England in April, and set out plans for more proactive, personalised, and joined up care. This includes a Proactive Care Programme, providing the 800,000 patients with the most complex health and care needs with a personal care and support plan, a named accountable GP, a professional to coordinate their care, and same-day telephone consultations.

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## **NHS England acts invests £230 million to secure word class IT systems**

The investment is aimed to ‘improve the quality of GP care by enhancing patients’ experience of services, supporting and encouraging greater integration of care and providing efficiency benefits for practices by reducing paperwork, freeing up more time for patient care.’

The move is based on existing GP led models, and in addition to being able to book appointments online, the move should enable patients to access their individual health record online.

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## **Health and Social Care no longer fit for purpose**

According to the interim report from the Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England, there are three serious failures of alignment in England’s current health and social care system. The independent commission established by the King’s Fund found a lack of alignment of entitlements, of funding streams, and of organisation – the first two of which are compounded by the separate commissioning arrangements for health and social care. The report suggested the NHS should move towards single ring fenced budgeting for commissioning services.

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## **National Cancer Intelligence Network shows rise in incidence of kidney cancer**

Incidence of kidney cancer has risen over 2 decades although survival rates have improved, a new report by Public Health England’s National Cancer Intelligence Network has revealed.

The report examines trends in kidney cancer, the eighth most common cancer in England, between 1990 and 2010 and found that for the main type of kidney cancer, Renal Cell Carcinoma, there has been an overall improvement in survival. Despite this, for rarer kidney cancer types there has been no significant change.

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## Quality needs to be delivered at the right cost

A partnership of clinical, financial and managerial professionals has stressed the need for the NHS to focus on value and remove the 'disconnect' between quality and finance.

The call comes as the partnership publishes their report, *Two sides of the same coin*, which argues that the NHS is too often used as a 'political football' between parties.

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## NHS England rethinks specialised commissioning

NHS England is currently undertaking a large scale review of how it approaches specialised commissioning. According to *Everyone counts: Planning for patients 2014/15 to 2018/19*, the NHS is considering reducing the landscape of 200 specialised providers to 15-30 specialist centres, supported by networks of other providers.

Following engagement with the NHS Confederation and Foundation Trust Network, NHS England will release a formal external consultation in June 2014.

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# Northern Ireland

## Poots announces actions to promote quality and good governance across Health and Social Care

Speaking in the Assembly, Health Minister Edwin Poots set out his strategic approach to promoting quality and good governance and outlined the measures currently being implemented. During a comprehensive Oral Statement, the Minister informed MLAs of a number of developments including his intention to commission former Chief Medical Officer of England, Professor Sir Liam Donaldson, to advise him on improvement on governance arrangements across Health and Social Care.

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## New Regional Supervision Policy for Allied Health Professionals launched

The new policy is designed to ensure good quality supervision for Allied Health Professional staff to underpin high-quality and safe practice. Health Minister Edwin Poots commented that Allied Health Professions in Northern Ireland add critical value across the full range of primary and secondary prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

Health and Social Care Trusts employ approximately 4,500 Allied Health Professionals plus their support staff across 12 distinct and unique disciplines.

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## Scotland

### Women urged to attend their screening appointments

New legislation that will radically alter the shape of social care in Scotland came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The Self-directed Support Act places duties on local authorities in Scotland to offer the option of designing their own care package to people who are assessed as needing social care. The act means a person may receive a direct payment they can then use for their care package; a person can have the council hold the funds until a decision on how it is spent is made; or a person can elect for the council to arrange the care package for them. They can also choose a mix of all three options.

Around 100,000 people in Scotland are assessed for care in Scotland every year. Previously, only a relatively small number have been offered the chance to self-direct their own support. The Act gives everyone assessed as needing support the right to have these options.

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### Royal Assent for Integration Bill

The full integration of health and social care services across Scotland took a step forward as the new Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act was given royal assent.

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### £6 billion cut from welfare budget

Reforms to the welfare system could see Scottish welfare spending reduced by around £6 billion over the six years to 2015-16, new shows. The reforms will see a reduction in support for families, children and those with disabilities.

The majority of the total reduction in welfare expenditure in Scotland, nearly 70 per cent, is expected to be in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

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# Wales

## WCISU report shows Lung Cancer 'still biggest cancer killer' in Wales

According to the latest statistics from the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit, lung cancer continues to be the biggest cause of death from cancer in Wales, with 1,894 mortalities in 2012. The disease accounts for almost 22% of all cancer deaths – more than bowel and breast cancers combined. They also found that cancer gets more common according to lower deprivation levels, except breast cancer which is more common amongst affluent women. All the data can be found in the 'Cancer in Wales' report.

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## NHS Cancer Waiting Times

90.5% of patients (466 out of 515) newly diagnosed with cancer via the Urgent Suspected Cancer route started definitive treatment within the target time of 62 days. 98.2% of patients (752 out of 766) who were newly diagnosed with cancer not via the Urgent route started definitive treatment within the target time of 31 days.

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## MPs debate PIP in Wales

Delays in assessments for PIP were widely criticised by MPs, as was the general administration of the benefit. The Government's initial estimated times for processing claims was questioned as new data showed it was taking on average twice as long as expected.

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# Developments from NICE

## Improving care for children and young people with cancer

According to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), a breast cancer treatment that can cost more than £90,000 per patient is not effective enough to justify the price the NHS is being asked to pay.

NICE is currently appraising trastuzumab emtansine (Kadcyla, manufactured by Roche) as a treatment option for people with HER2-positive breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body, cannot be surgically removed and has stopped responding to initial treatment.

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