

POLICY UPDATE

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CANCER SUPPORT

January 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 4984 or email abaranski@macmillan.org.uk

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UK-wide

Survival improving for lung cancer but the number of women diagnosed continues to rise

New NCIN data shows 1-year survival for lung cancer has improved significantly, yet female incidence rates have increased. Between 1990 and 2011, almost 720,000 people were diagnosed with lung cancer in England. During this time, the number of male lung cancer diagnoses declined, whereas the number of female lung cancer diagnoses increased. The sharp decrease in the incidence of male lung cancer over the past 2 decades reflects the decline in smoking prevalence among men. However, due to the rise in women who took up smoking after World War 2, the incidence among women continues to increase.

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England

Cancer Survival Improving in England but more to do

Cancer survival has continued to improve in England, but more needs to be done on early diagnosis and cancer treatments in the elderly, according to the results from the EUROCARE-5 study published this week in The Lancet Oncology. Survival in England has been steadily increasing over the last 10 years, and this was confirmed in the latest ONS statistical release which includes patients diagnosed up to 2011. However, for certain cancers, England still fell behind other European countries.

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NHS England announces £150 million to improve patient safety and care.

Hospitals are to get a £150 million boost to help improve patient safety and help make the NHS the safest healthcare system in the world. NHS England has worked with Monitor to adjust the price hospitals are paid to treat patients, in recognition that some hospitals will incur additional costs. The funding is to be used to improve safety and ensure patients are treated with care and compassion, such as employing extra nurses. The money is to come out of Clinical Commissioning Groups usual financial settlement.

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NHS England publishes CCG funding allocations for next two years.

NHS England has published the funding allocations that Clinical Commissioning Groups will receive over the next two years (2014/15 and 2015/16). It follows a decision by the NHS England Board to adopt a new funding formula for local health commissioners that will more accurately reflect population changes and include a specific deprivation measure. Funding for NHS commissioners will rise from £96bn to £100bn over the next two years, and levels for local health services will be calculated to ensure that funding matches the needs of local populations.

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NHS contacts all households regarding use of patient information

Leaflets explaining how the NHS uses patient information have begun landing on the doormats of England's 26.5 million households. Every household in England will receive "[Better Information Means Better Care](#)", a leaflet explaining the benefits of sharing information about the care they have received. As explained in the leaflet, patients have the right to object to their data being used for purposes other than their direct care. If patients wish to restrict their data being used then they should talk to their GP.

[Click here for more information](#)

Progress on implementing Cancer Outcomes Strategy

Improving Outcomes: Strategy for Cancer was published in January 2011 with the ambition to save an additional 5000 lives a year by 2014/15 and halve the gap between England and the best in Europe for survival rates. This year the report highlights progress made with partners on implementation, in particular significant developments in cancer screening, activity to promote earlier diagnosis of symptomatic cancers, progress in ensuring better access for all to the best possible treatment, and significant developments in the collection and reporting of new datasets and the analysis of information. The report also outlines the priority areas for action to work on with PHE and DH next year.

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Results of Be Clear on Cancer campaign now available.

Public Health England, in partnership with the Department of Health and NHS England has released the results of the Be Clear on Cancer national lung campaign that ran in 2012.

The campaign was designed to raise public awareness on cancer symptoms, encourage people to see their doctor, and help catch cancer at early stages. The results indicate an extra 700 diagnoses, with 300 of those people receiving potentially curative treatment.

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Patient and Public Voice Representatives for the Quality and Clinical Risk (QCR) Committee

The Quality and Clinical Risk Committee, a formal Committee of NHS England's Board, is recruiting up to three Patient and Public Voice (PPV) representatives. These representatives may be current or past patients/ users of the NHS, carers of users of health services, interested members of the public, or staff and volunteers of patient groups and charities.

[Click here for more information](#)

NHS England launches £100m Nursing Technology Fund

NHS organisations can now bid for part of a £100m fund to buy innovative technology to support nurses, midwives and care staff with improving patient care. The £100m 'Nursing Technology Fund' was announced by the Prime Minister in October last year and will fund mobile and digital technology to allow nursing, midwifery and care staff to work more flexibly and effectively.

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Data across all NHS services made easily available to patients

Data about hospital and GP services, Clinical Commissioning Group outcomes and local authority health information is now available in easily-navigable, interactive format on the NHS Choices website. Most of the 201 datasets were previously available on the NHS Choices site, apart from 40 indicators about GP practice standards and performance. Making this data accessible helps patients understand how their services are performing in the areas that matter to them most.

[Click here for more information](#)

Details on never events published

NHS England has published detailed data about never events (serious errors in care that put patients at risk) on a quarterly basis for the first time, provisional quarterly data on the number of never events happening at each hospital trust in England will be published. The data is available on the [NHS England website](#), and will be updated in three months' time. The provisional data includes 37 instances of wrong-site surgery in the six months from April to September, and 70 incidents of foreign objects being mistakenly left inside patients.

[Click here for more information](#)

Breakthrough for victims of mesothelioma cancer

Newly diagnosed victims of mesothelioma – the aggressive and fatal cancer caused by asbestos – will receive help for the first time through a new support scheme, as part of a bill currently going through Parliament. The package will award over £350 million over 10 years to around 3,000 mesothelioma victims across the UK who have been prevented from claiming compensation because they cannot trace a liable employer or an employers' liability insurer.

[Click here for more information](#)

Northern Ireland

Publication of the Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times Statistics Release

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has published the Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times Statistics Release for July, August and September 2013. The figures show the 2013/14 Ministerial Target that 'from April 2013, 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspect cancer should begin their treatment within 62 days' has not been met.

[Click here for more information](#)

Publication of 'Carers' statistics for Northern Ireland

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has published 'Carers' Statistics for Northern Ireland (quarter ending 30 September 2013)'. This is the tenth reporting of quarterly figures relating to Carers' Statistics in Northern Ireland. The overall Carers' Assessments completed were down 8% on the previous quarter, and of the 2500 Carers' Assessments offered during the quarter, 1,363 (55%) were declined; similar to that in the previous quarter.

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Poots launches consultation on children's palliative care

Health Minister Edwin Poots has launched the public consultation on the final phase in the review of paediatric healthcare services in Northern Ireland. This phase focuses on the palliative and end-of-life care of children and young people, and how bereaved families are helped to cope with the loss of their child. The three-phase review as a whole will set out a model for children's healthcare for the next 10 years.

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Scotland

NHS Staff Survey

The NHS Scotland 2013 Staff Survey shows over three quarters of staff feel supported in their role, and an increase from 2010 in the number of staff who felt it was safe to speak up and challenge the ways things are done. As well as an increase in those feeling there were enough staff for them to do their job properly, 87 per cent were happy to go the 'extra mile' when required, and 89 per cent are indicating they are not experiencing bullying and harassment from a manager.

The staff survey also highlights a number of areas of improvement since 2006, such as an increase in the number of staff who would recommend their board as a good place to work.

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Renewed focus on NHS seven day service

Ensuring the NHS in Scotland provides round the clock care will be given a renewed focus in 2014 according to Health Secretary Alex Neil. A taskforce will meet early this year to drive forward focused improvements in the services available out of hours, particularly at the weekends.

While the NHS in Scotland already offers round the clock, Mr Neil says that more should be done to move away from variations in how care is provided at the weekend.

[Click here for more information](#)

Quarterly cancer waiting times to September 2013

Information Services Division Scotland has reported on Cancer waiting times for the quarter ending September 2013. The information provided addresses two different standards: that 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer wait a maximum of 62 days from referral to first cancer treatment; and that 95% of all patients, regardless of route of referral, wait a maximum of 31 days from decision to treat to their first treatment. The data are presented by NHS Board, Cancer Network and cancer type, for the period between July-September 2013.

[Click here for more information](#)

Wales

Welsh revisions to GP contract to remove bureaucracy

The Welsh Government has agreed changes to the GP contract for 2014/15 with the General Practitioners Committee (Wales). Key changes include strengthening the delivery of local health

care through GP practices, and addressing unscheduled care admissions relating to cancer, providing better care for people with early stage cancer, for those at the end of their lives and the frail elderly through three new national care pathways.

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Updates on My Local Health Service website

A new website containing easily accessible information on NHS performance has been updated giving patients even more information on their local hospitals, GP practices and health boards.

The mylocalhealthservice.wales.gov.uk website provides performance data on a range of health services and now includes information on referral to treatment time, cancer referral waits (31 days and 62 days wait), delayed transfer of care health and sickness absence.

[Click here for more information](#)

£9.5m Health Technology and Telehealth Fund announced

Wales Health Minister Mark Drakeford has announced a £9.5 million Health Technology and Telehealth Fund. This will build on recent investments made through the Health Technology Fund and Rural Health Innovation Fund. The fund aims to support the introduction of new technologies in non-hospital settings, using technology to support innovative ways of working at a local level. This is part of the service transformation needed to deliver the high quality, safe and sustainable services and improved patient benefits set out in Together for Health.

[Click here for more information](#)

Report on Childhood cancers released

The Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (WCISU) has contributed to a new analysis on the number of children living with cancer (prevalence) in the UK. The [study](#) by Macmillan Cancer Support and the National Cancer Intelligence Network estimated that almost 10,000 children in the UK are currently living with a cancer. Figures show that around 20 per cent more boys than girls aged 0-14 are living with cancer. And almost half (47 per cent) of all under-14s living with a cancer diagnosis were diagnosed at least five years ago.

[Click here for more information](#)

NHS Wales Chief Executive David Sissling to take up new post

Welsh Government Permanent Secretary, Sir Derek Jones KCB, has announced that David Sissling, Chief Executive NHS Wales and Director General, Health and Social Services, will move to a new role at the end of March.

David Sissling joined the Welsh Government in May 2011 following a long career in the NHS. He will leave his post at the end of March to take up a new senior role in the NHS in the East Midlands.

[Click here for more information](#)

Minimum Nurse Staffing Levels Bill

Kirsty Williams, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, has been selected in the Ballot to take forward her Member Proposed Bill on Minimum Nursing Staffing Levels.

This legislation would require the government to produce regulations which set a minimum staffing level for nurses in Wales for each different acute and specialist service.

[Click here for more information](#)

New guidance on care and support for over 65's

Streamlined guidance for assessing and planning care and support for people aged 65 and over has been published by the Welsh Government. The new guidance - Integrated Assessment, Planning and Review Arrangements for Older People - has been issued by the Minister for Health and Social Services for immediate implementation by local authorities and their NHS partners to introduce a more responsive assessment and care planning process. People will be asked what support they need to remain independent and confident, and they will play an equal part in the decisions made about their care in order to maintain their wellbeing.

[Click here for more information](#)

Developments from NICE

NICE issues draft guidance on drug for prostate cancer

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has issued new draft guidance recommending degarelix (Firmagon, Ferring Pharmaceuticals), as an option for treating prostate cancer in people who are at risk of impending spinal cord compression.

Consultees, including the manufacturer, healthcare professionals and members of the public are now able to comment on the preliminary recommendations which are available for public consultation. Until final guidance is issued, NHS bodies should make decisions locally on the funding of specific treatments. Once NICE issues its final guidance on a technology, it replaces local recommendations across the country.

[Click here for more information](#)

NICE says yes to non-Hodgkins lymphoma treatment

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) says the drug pixantrone should be funded by the NHS to treat certain people with aggressive non-Hodgkins B-cell lymphoma.

The guidance recommends that the treatment is only recommended for people with this type of cancer whose disease has either returned or become resistant to current therapy. NICE guidance also says that the drug can only be funded if the manufacturer provides it at a discounted rate.

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