

POLICY UPDATE

WE ARE
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CANCER SUPPORT

May 2013

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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England

NHS England announces update to Cancer Drugs Fund

NHS England has released an update to the national Cancer Drugs Fund list, further increasing access for patients to an additional three new cancer drugs.

The additions to the list have been made following a review of trial data from the drugs by the Chemotherapy Clinical Reference Group (CRG), one of 74 such groups which provide clinical advice to NHS England regarding a range of specialised services.

The additions are Aflibercept in 2nd line colorectal cancer, Bevacizumab in 2nd line Ovarian Cancer and Pertuzumab in breast cancer.

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Integrated Care and Support Plan

Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb has launched the 'Integrated Care and Support' plan, which sees Government and key stakeholders in the health and care system work together to help local areas make integration happen. It aims to make joined-up and coordinated health and care the norm by 2018 (with projects in every part of the country by 2015).

The plan includes **ten commitments**, a few of which are: outlining how national resources will support local work, ensure tools are available to help, details of how information will be used to enable integration and plans to accelerate learning across the system.

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Queen's Speech: Care Bill

In the Queen's Speech on the 8th of May 2013 the Care Bill, which follows on from the Draft Care & Support Bill, was raised. The Bill will take forward the Government's commitments to reform social care legislation. It will introduce a number of measures in response to the Francis Inquiry, including Ofsted-style ratings for hospitals and care homes and giving the new Chief Inspector of Hospitals at the CQC, power to identify problems with the quality of care and ensure action is taken more effectively. The Bill received its first reading in the Lords on Thursday 9th May and its second reading took place on Tuesday 21st May.

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The Adult Social Care: Choice Framework

The Adult Social Care Choice Framework sets out the choices people are able to make in relation to their care and support. The framework also sets out where people can access further information, and how to complain if they are not offered choice.

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£260 million invested in patient safety plans

Jeremy Hunt has announced a technology fund for hospitals to help improve patient safety.

Responding to the Francis report, which called on the NHS to make better use of technology to improve safe, effective care, Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt announced a new £260 million fund for hospitals on 17th May 2013.

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Public health commissioning in the NHS

Public health commissioning outcomes have been released on breast cancer, bowel cancer & cervical screening. The service specifications provide details of the public health evidence and advice needed to support effective commissioning.

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Patient experience overall measure

The latest National Statistics on the overall patient experience measure, produced by the Department of Health (DH) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), have been released. Patient experience of NHS inpatient services increased between 2011 and 2012. The overall score in 2012 was 76.5 out of 100, compared to 75.6 in 2011.

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Northern Ireland

Appointment of five non-executive members to the Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)

Health Minister Edwin Poots announced the appointment of five Non-Executive Members (two Lay Members; one Medical Member; one Social Care Member; and one Nursing Member) to the Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

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Almost 70,000 people in NI living with cancer

Nearly 70,000 people in Northern Ireland are living with cancer, or have had a cancer diagnosis in the last 18 years. The figure is contained in a report entitled, "Living With and Beyond Cancer" by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry. The report is the first ever detailed picture of cancer prevalence in Northern Ireland and was published with the intention to help those working to improve services for people living with cancer.

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Scotland

Cancer will affect two in five people

Two in five people in Scotland will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime, according to figures released the week beginning 29th April 2013, but people are living longer after diagnosis.

Official statistics released by ISD Scotland also show that incidence rates of cancer in Scotland have increased by three per cent over the last ten years.

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Bowel screening saves 750 lives

Around 750 lives have been saved in Scotland since the introduction of the national bowel screening programme in 2007.

The figures have been revealed to coincide with Nudge Day, a national day of action to encourage Scots to 'nudge' older family members to get tested for bowel cancer.

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Breast cancer genetic testing

The Scottish Genetics Laboratory Consortium steering group has decided to extend genetic testing for the faulty breast cancer BRCA gene in Scotland, in line with the new NICE recommendation. The agreement was reached in April and will be fully implemented by 1st June 2013.

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Wales

The operation of health technology fund 2013-14 onwards

Minister for Health and Social Services (Mark Drakeford) has agreed to a formal launch of the Health Technology fund which is a 3-year investment package of £25 million to support the transformation of health care delivery in Wales through the introduction of new ways of working and treatments.

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NHS Cancer Waiting Times, quarter ending March 2013

Only 83.6% of patients newly diagnosed with cancer via the Urgent Suspected Cancer route started definitive treatment within the target time of 62 days, 11.4% below the target, and 97.4% of patients who were newly diagnosed with cancer not via the Urgent route started definitive treatment within the target time of 31 days, 0.6% below the target. Only two of the six LHBs met the target of patients newly diagnosed with cancer not via the Urgent route and only one of the six LHBs met the target for the Urgent route.

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Cardiff-based specialists lead pioneering cancer research

Leukaemia specialists at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board have led a successful trial of a first-of-its kind cancer treatment, offering new hope for elderly patients with leukaemia. The data from the trial run by Roche will be presented at the world's biggest cancer conference, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, in Chicago at the start of June.

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Welsh Government NHS Budget

The Welsh Government budget in 2011 – 12 for cancer was £356.8 million, an increase of £9million from the previous year. Cancer remains the fourth biggest spending area for the NHS in Wales and the expenditure per head is £116.44.

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Improving end of life care in Wales

Plans setting out how people in Wales will be supported and cared for at the end of their life have been launched.

The “Delivering End of Life Care” plan sets out the Welsh Government’s expectations of NHS Wales, and its partners, to make end of life care consistently good across the country

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Developments from NICE

First set of NICE public health quality standards revealed

NICE's quality standards programme will be substantially broadened to cover topics affecting public health, it was announced.

In his keynote speech at NICE's annual conference on 15th May 2013, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Quality Lord Howe said that NICE will work with experts from Public Health England to initially develop three new public health quality standards.

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