

# POLICY UPDATE

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CANCER SUPPORT

## September 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](mailto:abaranski@macmillan.org.uk)

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## UK-wide

### Test to detect spread of breast cancer could help avoid further surgery

A test used during surgery to detect whether breast cancer has spread can help avoid further operations and allow treatments such as chemotherapy to begin earlier, according to NICE. NICE says that using this test during surgery can determine whether any lymph nodes that the cancer has spread to should be removed at the same time as the initial tumour. This means that patients can avoid having to wait for results of biopsies, that additional surgery could be avoided, and that subsequent treatments such as chemotherapy can begin earlier.

[Click here for more information](#)

## England

### Report on urgent and emergency services

A&E is Keoghs next challenge, say MPs as Health Committee publishes its report on urgent and emergency services.

Growing demand on A&E departments will make them unsustainable if effective action is not taken quickly to relieve the pressures on them, according to MPs on the Health Committee.

[Click here for more information](#)

### Next Be Clear On Cancer campaign announced

PHE, in partnership with the Department of Health and NHS England, has announced that the next phase of the Be Clear on Cancer campaign will raise awareness of a key symptom of kidney and bladder cancers – ‘blood in pee’. Early diagnosis can help improve cancer survival rates as catching cancer earlier generally makes it more treatable.

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### Carers Bill

Committee Stage of the Care Bill continued in the House of Lords this week. Lord Warner tabled an amendment that would see terminally ill patients likely to die within 6 months exempt from Local Authority charges. Macmillan was mentioned many times during the debate. Lord Warner used polling data from Macmillan’s *There’s No Place Like Home: Making the case for free social care at the end of life*. The Bill will move to Report Stage when the Lords return from the summer recess.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Government commits £250 million for innovative cancer treatment to save lives and reduce side effects**

A major new cutting edge radiotherapy treatment will be available in the UK thanks to £250 million of government funding to build two new facilities in Manchester and London. Proton Beam Therapy is a particularly important form of cancer treatment as it targets tumours more precisely with less damage to surrounding tissues. This can improve the quality of life following cancer treatment and reduces side effects, especially for children.

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## **First results from NHS Friends and Family test published**

New data from the NHS Friends and Family survey, which asks patients whether they would recommend A&E and inpatient wards to their nearest and dearest based on their own experience, has been released. The survey covers around 4,500 NHS wards and 144 A&E services. It allows hospital trusts to gain real time feedback on their services down to individual ward level.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **More patients benefit as specialist cancer drugs fast track list expands**

NHS England has published figures showing the number of times patients have been prescribed specialist drugs that are available as part of the national Cancer Drugs Fund list. The data shows an increase in the amount of drugs prescribed from the specialist list since April.

[Click here for more information](#)

# **Northern Ireland**

## **Northern Ireland Announcements and Publications**

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) has published statistics on the time spent waiting in emergency care departments within Northern Ireland during the months of April, May and June 2013.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Families urged to get active together**

The Public Health Agency (PHA) is urging families to get active together, combining fun and physical activity. Amongst other benefits, they note that being active protects against some cancers.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Report on 'Who Cares' consultation

Health Minister Edwin Poots has published a report summarising the findings of the recent consultation on 'Who Cares? The Future of Adult Care and Support in Northern Ireland'. The consultation was designed to raise awareness of how challenges such as an ageing population, increasing expectations of users and a difficult financial climate will impact on the care and support system, and make the case that change was needed.

[Click here for more information](#)

## Scotland

### Free Personal and Nursing Care, Scotland, 2011-12

Scotland's Chief Statistician has published 'Free Personal and Nursing Care, Scotland 2011-12'. This statistics release presents information on the number of people benefiting from free personal care and free nursing care in Scotland and how much Local Authorities spend on personal care services. Health Secretary Alex Neil commented on the statistics, saying that Scotland has seen a 42% rise in the number of people receiving personal care at home in Scotland since 2003-4 and the figures show that people are now receiving more time with carers each week.

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## Wales

### Changes to cervical screening program in Wales

Cervical Screening Wales is to introduce changes in the way it invites women for smear tests from 1 September 2013.

From 1 September, women born after 1 September 1993 will no longer be invited for smear tests until they reach 25, and women aged between 50 and 64 will be invited every five years rather than every three years.

The changes will be introduced in Wales, and in Scotland from 2015, and follow recommendations made by the National Screening Committee, the body that sets screening policy for the UK.

[Click here for more information](#)

### New report shows effectiveness of cervical screening programme

A report published by Cervical Screening Wales shows that without a screening programme, cancer rates could be 3.6 times higher. The Cervical Screening Wales Audit of Cervical Cancer National Report 1999-2009 is the first of its kind in Wales and will be published every three years. The report shows that around 60 per cent of women with invasive cancer had not been screened in the previous seven years, compared with 16 per cent in the general population, indicating that rates of cancer could be almost four times higher for some age groups without a screening programme.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **£6.5m for Specialist Palliative Care Services across Wales**

Health Minister Mark Drakeford has confirmed that £6.5million will be allocated to Specialist Palliative Care Services across Wales in 2013-14, of which £2.4million will go direct to hospices. Hospices play an essential part in the Welsh Government's aims to reduce inequalities in end of life care and to maintain the dignity of an individual in their last days of life; as set out in the Delivering End of Life Care Plan, published in April 2013.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **Consultation: A Framework for Delivering Integrated Health and Social Care**

Evidence shows that demand is increasing for both acute and community care services for older people, particularly those aged 85 and over.

The Department of Health and Social Services have developed a framework with the NHS, Third sector and Local Authority social care leaders across Wales and would welcome views on the proposed Framework for Integration.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **New App for Patient Self Assessment**

The first on-line medical self assessment app for use by the public has been launched in Wales by Aneurin Bevan Health Board . The app uses extensive and proven clinical content developed for use by clinicians, and adapts it for patients to carry out their own self assessment – it then guides them to the most appropriate level of care or place of treatment for their condition. Odyssey SelfAssess can be accessed from mobile phones or PC and draws upon clinical best practice to ensure that the patient provides sufficient information for a thorough, clinically safe self-assessment.

[Click here for more information](#)

## **National Assembly Inquiry into access to medical technologies in Wales**

The Committee has issued an invitation to contribute to the inquiry and asks for written submissions by Friday 18th October 2013 and Macmillan in Wales are likely to provide a contribution. Oral evidence sessions are due to take place in new year 2014.

[Click here for more information](#)

# Developments from NICE

## Topics for latest CCG Outcomes Indicator Set announced

NICE has published its latest set of indicators for the 2014/15 Clinical Commissioning Group Outcomes Indicator Set (CCG OIS). To improve early diagnosis rates, the proposed 2014/15 CCG OIS includes an indicator to measure new cases of cancer diagnosed at stage 1 and 2 as a proportion of all new cases of cancer diagnosed, where the cancer is of a type that can be staged. Macmillan issued a media statement expressing disappointment that other key cancer indicators were not included (for example on end of life and patient experience).

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