### Policy news

1. Weekly publication of MRSA bacteraemias and *C. difficile* infections
2. Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards
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8. Web seminar – Expert on Call: Systems Thinking
9. what’s new
   - Risk of retained swabs after vaginal birth and perineal suturing
   - Web seminar – Expert on Call: Systems Thinking
10. places still available
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### Patient safety alerts

11. MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT – MDA/2010/046
12. MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT – MDA/2010/047

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Chief executives are reminded that all communications requiring the attention of NHS and local authority management include a Gateway reference number. In order to streamline the number of communications issued by the Department, these will continue to be summarised in “the week” every Thursday.
On the agenda

1. Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust public inquiry

The Secretary of State, Andrew Lansley, has announced a full public inquiry into the operation of the commissioning, supervisory and regulatory bodies in relation to their monitoring role at Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. The focus will be on the lessons to be learned for the wider NHS system. The inquiry will be chaired by Robert Francis QC, and will be conducted under the Inquiries Act 2005. The Secretary of State has also announced new measures to strengthen protection for whistleblowers in the NHS.

Click here to read the Secretary of State's oral statement, the terms of reference for the inquiry and the press release:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_116650

2. Secretary of State speech

In his first speech since taking up the post, the Health Secretary said he would put his heart and soul into the improvement of health outcomes by making patients the driving force of improvements to the NHS. Not just as beneficiaries of care, but as participants with shared decision-making.

Read the full press release at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_116634
1. **Weekly publication of MRSA bacteraemias and *C. difficile* infections (Gateway reference number: 14373)**

On 2 June the Secretary of State wrote to NHS trust chairs regarding the provision of weekly hospital data on MRSA bacteraemias and *C. difficile* for each hospital site on www.data.gov.uk. A copy of the letter is available below.

**Link:**
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Deearcolleagueletters/DH_116599

**Action:**
NHS chief executives will wish to review their existing processes and ensure wherever possible that cases are loaded by the end of each week.

2. **Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards (Gateway reference number: 14406)**

Nominations for the third annual Military and Civilian Health Partnership Awards, celebrating exceptional care for the forces across all professional disciplines and settings, are now open. Entrants can be self-nominated or entered by patients, colleagues or members of the public. The closing date for nominations is 9 July.

**Link:**
www.militarycivilianhealthawards.org

**Action:**
NHS and local authority chief executives, along with their representatives, can nominate colleagues, projects or initiatives that provide serving military personnel (including the Reserves), their families and veterans with the very best in healthcare and social care.

3. **NHS Leadership Awards 2010 – deadline 18 June (Gateway reference number: 14391)**

It takes outstanding leadership to consistently deliver great patient care. The NHS has many great leaders, partnerships and NHS boards, so don’t miss the opportunity to recognise them and showcase their achievements through nine leadership categories.

**Link:**
www.nhsleadershipawards.nhs.uk/

**Action:**
NHS chief executives are encouraged to submit nominations that recognise and highlight the achievements of the people, partnerships and NHS boards in your area. Nominations close on Friday 18 June.
Policy news

4. REPLAY over-35s football
(Gateway reference number: 14413)
Football REPLAY is a new national grassroots football programme aimed specifically at getting men over 35 off the sofa and back onto the pitch. REPLAY operates from 45 centres across the country and runs every Sunday. Participants of all abilities are welcomed.

Link:
www.footballreplay.net

Action:
Chief executives may wish to discuss this programme with directors of public health, consider running health services and campaigns to men within the football centres, and encourage NHS and local authority colleagues to get involved.
Published every Thursday, the week provides need-to-know news, consultations and events for chief executives and their teams. It provides links to more information and resources, highlighting areas for action.

Consultations and evaluations

5. Measurement for quality and cost (Gateway reference number: 14399)
An ideas channel for NHS organisations to submit examples of where they have used measurement effectively opens today and will be open for four weeks. The effective use of measurement is imperative to ensuring quality improvement and reduction in cost, and good examples need to be shared across the NHS.

Link: www.institute.nhs.uk/MfQ

Action: NHS chief executives will wish to make sure that they take advantage of this opportunity to both share their examples of where measurement has been used effectively within their organisation and learn from what others have done.
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**Publications**

6. **Links to healthy eating information on NHS Choices**
(Gateway reference number: 14168)
NHS Choices has issued a series of links to healthy eating information for organisations to use on their national and local websites. A letter from Gary Ashby, Programme Director at NHS Choices, is also available for download.

**Link:**
www.nhs.uk/aboutNHSChoices/professionals/developments/Pages/Recentdevelopments.aspx

**Action:**
NHS and local authority chief executives will wish to discuss this letter with web editors and other appropriate teams.

7. **Men’s Health Week – 14-20 June 2010**
(Gateway reference number: 14401)
The Men’s Health Forum is encouraging government, NHS and sports organisations to work together to help one million more men in England achieve the Chief Medical Officer’s minimum recommended levels of physical activity by 2012. Men’s Health Week is supported by the Department of Health, NHS Choices and Sport England.

**Link:**
www.menshealthforum.org.uk

**Action:**
NHS and local authority chief executives will wish to review the resources available online and discuss with their public health colleagues.
Conferences and events

8. Web seminar – Expert on Call: Systems Thinking
(Gateway reference number: 14402)
On Thursday 17 June at 4pm, Paul Hodkinson of the NHS Institute will talk about systems thinking approaches, including double loop learning and soft systems methodology. There will also be an opportunity for NHS colleagues to hear practical NHS examples, ask questions and exchange ideas.

Link:
https://nhs.webex.com/nhs/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=847234753

Action:
NHS chief executives and their colleagues are invited to register for this free web seminar at the above link.
Patient safety alerts

9. Risk of retained swabs after vaginal birth and perineal suturing
(Gateway reference number: 14333)
Incidents have been reported of swabs being left in the vagina following birth. Retained swabs are a source of maternal morbidity, including pyrexia, infection, pain, secondary post-partum haemorrhage and psychological problems. This Rapid Response Report sets out actions to ensure that wherever swabs are used they should be accounted for every time.

**Link:**
www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?EntryId45=74113

**Action:**
NHS chief executives should ensure that the recommendations in the Alert are implemented in organisations providing maternity services.

10. MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT – MDA/2010/046
(Gateway reference number: 14403)
**DEVICE:** UnilectTM ECG monitoring electrodes manufactured by Unomedical (a ConvaTec Company).
Specific product and lot numbers.
This Medical Device Alert was issued on 2 June to NHS trusts for immediate action.
Further information can be found at
www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON084595

11. MEDICAL DEVICE ALERT – MDA/2010/047
(Gateway reference number: 14404)
**DEVICE:** Ondal Acrobat 2000 (AC2000) spring arm used to support operating lights and monitors made by various manufacturers.
Specific serial numbers.
This Medical Device Alert was issued on 2 June to NHS trusts for action.
Further information can be found at
www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON084596
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**Need help**

**Change in contact details**
In the event of a forthcoming personnel change or an alteration in your own contact details, reply to contact_details@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Please include name, full contact details and date of change.

**Technical difficulties**
If you have trouble opening the attachment or accessing links please email mb-web-feedback@dh.gsi.gov.uk

**General comments**
If you would like to make general comments on the week please contact theweek@dh.gsi.gov.uk, fax 020 7972 5851 or write to NHS Staff Communications, Room 444, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Department of Health, London SW1A 2NS.

**Ordering DH publications**
All DH publications are free – if you wish to order hard copies of any publications mentioned in the week, go to www.orderline.dh.gov.uk