The week: 29 October to 4 November 2010
Issue: 170

On the agenda

1. Hospital standardised mortality ratios (HSMR) – report published today
Following the recommendations of the Francis Inquiry, an independent working group was established on behalf of the National Quality Board to review the methodology for calculating HSMR and recommend how these statistics should be used in the future.

The group, led by Ian Dalton in his role as Chief Executive of NHS North East, was made up of a wide range of the leading experts on mortality as well as representatives of key interests and stakeholders. A report setting out the group’s findings has been published today.

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh and Ian Dalton have today written to all NHS chief executives, chairs and medical directors to provide an update on the report and to set out the next steps in the process.

For more information, including the letter and the report: 

2. Secretary of State live webchat – take part on 9 November
The NHS and patients will have the opportunity to put questions about An Information Revolution and Greater choice and control direct to Andrew Lansley on 9 November.

You will be able to watch the live Q&A on screen, ask questions and leave comments. The comments and Andrew Lansley's answers will be tweeted on the DH twitter feed, and a transcript of the webchat will be available on the website after the event.

Email your questions to informationrevolution@dh.gsi.gov.uk or send your question via twitter, using the hashtag #inforevolution.

View the webchat on 9 November at: 
www.dh.gov.uk/informationrevolution

Sign up to the DH twitter feed at: 
http://twitter.com/dhgovuk

Policy news
1. Direct Payments legislation amended
2. Information Governance (IG)

Consultations and evaluations
No news this week

Publications
3. Integrated Drug Treatment System for Prisons (IDTS) allocations 2010/11
4. Choice of GP practice
5. Revised guidance on direct payments for social care
6. Local tobacco control profiles tool
7. A review of patient safety incidents involving anti-cancer medicines
8. Revised Fairer Contributions Guidance
9. CSED homecare re-ablement toolkit
Conferences and events
No news this week

Patient safety alerts
No news this week

Extra note
Chief executives are reminded that all communications requiring the attention of NHS and local authority management must 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.

Policy news

1. Direct Payments legislation amended
(Gateway reference number: 15047)
Regulations amending regulations 9 and 10 of the Community Care, Services for Carers and Children’s Services (Direct Payments) (England) Regulations 2009 came into force on 29 October 2010. Paragraph 119 of the Direct Payments Guidance 2009 and Paragraph 7.2 of the Fairer Contributions Guidance 2009 have also been amended accordingly.
Action: Chief executives of local authorities and care trusts, as well as directors of adult social care, will wish to consider the implications of this guidance.

2. Information Governance (IG)
(Gateway reference number: 15063)
Informatic Planning 2010/11 states ‘all staff should receive annual basic IG training appropriate to their role.’ As a result, DH has provided high quality IG e-learning through a dedicated IG Training Tool. To give organisations greater flexibility to access IG e-learning, these are now available on the National Learning Management System (NLMS).
Action: NHS chief executives will wish to ensure their organisations are meeting IG requirements.

Consultations & evaluations
No news this week

Publications

3. Integrated Drug Treatment System for Prisons (IDTS) allocations 2010/11
(Gateway Reference 14963)
This letter from Richard Bradshaw, Director of Offender Health and Rosanna O'Connor, Director of Delivery National Treatment Agency, confirms the 2010/11 Department of Health IDTS allocations for all adult prisons. This funding is to progress the development of enhanced clinical services for prison drug treatment.
**Action:** PCT and SHA chief executives will wish to be aware of the allocations set out in Annex B of this letter.

**4. Choice of GP practice**  
(Gateway reference number: 14872)  
A summary of responses to the consultation on enabling people to register with a GP practice of their choice was published on 18 October. Over 5,000 responses were received from a wide range of stakeholders with the vast majority of public respondents supporting the proposals to open up choice for patients. The Department will be working with NHS, professional and patient groups over the coming months to work through some of the logistical issues in more detail.  
**Link:**  
**Action:** NHS chief executives will wish to consider this summary of responses.

**5. Revised guidance on direct payments for social care**  
(Gateway reference number: 15025)  
Revised guidance on direct payments for community care, services for carers and children’s services has been published to reflect recent legislative changes in relation to charging for temporary residential accommodation. It amends guidance issued in 2009.  
**Link:**  
**Action:** Chief executives of local authorities and care trusts, as well as directors of adult social care, will wish to consider the implications of this guidance.

**6. Local tobacco control profiles tool**  
(Gateway reference number: 15053)  
The Association of Public Health Observatories has launched a new local tobacco control profiles tool for all English local authorities and PCTs. The profiles are designed to provide a comparative snapshot of the extent of tobacco use, tobacco-related harm and measures being taken to reduce this harm.  
**Link:**  
[www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/Analytic_Tools/Tobaccocontrolprofiles](http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/Analytic_Tools/Tobaccocontrolprofiles)  
**Action:** NHS and local authority chief executives will wish to review the profile for their region and ensure commissioning and investment priorities reflect local need for prevention of tobacco-related ill health.

**7. A review of patient safety incidents involving anti-cancer medicines**  
(Gateway reference number: 15057)  
The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has today issued a series of recommendations to all NHS organisations across England and Wales aimed at improving care and minimising risk associated with anti-cancer medicines  
**Link:**  
[www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=75475](http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=75475)  
**Action:** NHS chief executives will wish to consider implementing the recommendations in the review.

**8. Revised Fairer Contributions Guidance**  
(Gateway reference number: 15025)  
Revised guidance on Fairer Contributions has been published to reflect recent legislative changes in relation to charging for temporary residential accommodation. It replaces guidance issued in 2009.  
**Link:**  
Action: Chief executives of local authorities and care trusts, as well as directors of social care, will wish to consider the implications of this guidance.

9. CSED homecare re-ablement toolkit
(Gateway reference number: 15045)
Drawing on council experience, the DH’s Care Services Efficiency Delivery (CSED) team has put together a best practice toolkit to help councils that are looking to introduce a new homecare reablement service, or extend or improve an existing one. The toolkit builds on CSED’s work with councils to compile evidence of how homecare re-ablement services are helping to reduce the level of ongoing homecare support required.
Link: www.csed.dh.gov.uk/homeCareReablement/Toolkit/
Action: Local authority and NHS chief executives, and directors of adult social services, will wish to consider the examples and practical implementation advice contained within this toolkit.

Conferences and events
No news this week

Patient safety alerts
No news this week

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 or fax 020 7972 5851 or write to NHS staff comms, 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