



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 115 February 2017

1. Latest N.A.P.P. News

a. Diary dates

- **24th June 2017: Annual Conference “Patients, Power and Partnerships”** at the Park Hotel, Basingstoke, Hampshire. Further details will be [here](#) on the N.A.P.P. website shortly, so keep checking.
- **19th – 24th June 2017: 19th PPG Awareness week:** Please note that this is later in the month than the usual early June dates.

2. New GP contract for 2017/18 agreed by NHS England, government and BMA

NHS England, the government, and the British Medical Association’s General Practitioners Committee have reached agreement on changes to the general practice contract in England. The new agreement includes an increased focus on some of the most vulnerable, with tailored annual reviews offered to frail pensioners, and an increase in the number of health checks for people with learning disabilities. The new [contract](#) also includes provisions to encourage practices to expand access and not to close for half a day a week. GP practices which regularly close for mornings or afternoons on a week day will lose their eligibility for the current extended hours scheme claimed by most practices. Practices which club together with other GPs in their local area to offer more evening and weekend appointments will be eligible for extra non-contractual funding over and above the current scheme.

3. Updated resources form Patient Online programme

NHS England's Patient Online programme has updated its toolkits for GPs, CCGs and NHS trusts with advice on promotion of online services to patients. These include an extensive range of posters, leaflets and eight [Patient guides](#), a number of [Toolkits](#), including template articles for your website or blog, social media posts for websites such as Facebook and Twitter, and a press release for use with local media. Most of these materials can be ordered online, though this might easier for the practice to do, rather than by a PPG member. Of particular interest are the [GP Online promotion toolkit for GP surgeries](#), the N.A.P.P. publication [Making online GP services work well for patients](#) and many others [here](#) .

4. GMC: Revised Confidentiality Guidance from April 2017

Confidentiality is one of the most common topics in enquiries to the General Medical Council reflecting how challenging it is for practices. The (GMC) has published revised, expanded and reorganised [guidance on confidentiality](#) (or [Welsh language version](#)) for all doctors practising in the UK, which comes into effect on **25 April 2017**. The updated guidance includes a decision-making flowchart, revised explanatory guidance on common or difficult situations, and from April additional resources will be published with case studies to support doctors. Hundreds of doctors, patients, individuals and organisations from across the UK helped shape the new guidance.

The GMC is independent organisation which

- decides which doctors are qualified to work in the UK
- oversees UK medical education and training.
- sets the standards that doctors need to follow,

- ensures that they continue to meet these standards throughout their careers.
- takes action to prevent a doctor from putting the safety of patients, or public confidence in doctors, at risk.

5. Are you interested in health research? Opportunities for members of the public to get involved in advisory panels

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) [Central Commissioning Facility](#) (CCF) is currently looking for patients and members of the public to join a number of national and regional advisory panels across England. [More information](#) including [Information packs and application packs](#). A PDF copy of the advert is also available as a [download](#). **Deadline for applications is 12pm on Monday 27 March 2017.**

6. New two sides campaign promotes public involvement in research

The NIHR is launching a striking [new campaign](#) urging patients and the public to get actively involved in health and social care research, which affects the lives of millions of people. Share your experience and ideas or take part in a study and help give patients a voice in research. Your contribution could help to improve the lives of millions of people using health and social care services. The NIHR offers all kinds of ways to join in and you can give as much or as little time as you'd like. This campaign was developed with the guidance of a mixed focus group of public contributors and NIHR staff, find out more from this [news item](#) or [Spread the word: find out how to order free A2 posters for your public noticeboard](#)

7. Act FAST campaign to remind people of the main symptoms of stroke

- Face – has their face fallen on one side? Can they smile?
- Arms – can they raise both their arms and keep them there?
- Speech – is their speech slurred?

A quarter of people would wait for more than one symptom of a stroke before calling an ambulance, according to research from Public Health England. On February 2nd, PHE launched its [annual campaign](#) to remind us of the main symptoms of stroke importance of calling 999 immediately **if they notice any single one of the symptoms in themselves or others**. Stroke kills over 40,000 people a year and leaves around two-thirds of stroke survivors with a disability. Research shows that 24% of people would wait to call an ambulance because they wrongly believe that they need to see 2 or more symptoms of stroke to be sure. Other barriers to dialling 999 include feeling that they need permission to act on behalf of others. Downloaded useful videos [here](#) .

8. What is social prescribing?

Social prescribing enables GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. A [report](#) by the King's Fund, an independent charity working to improve health and care in England, asks the questions "Does it work? And how does it fit in with wider health and care policy?"

9. Get your N.A.P.P. member password now!

N.A.P.P.'s website Member pages contain **key resources available to affiliated PPGs and CCGs**. For login details, **visit the website, click on Members and use screen instructions**. We recommend each PPG to have a group email address as the username for the login.

10. Reminders: Please email this bulletin to fellow members promptly. We do not send hard copies of e-bulletins. All previous bulletins can be found at <http://www.napp.org.uk/ebulletins.html>

*Edith Todd,
Trustee,
February 2017*