INDEPENDENT HEALTHCARE ADVISORY SERVICES

MAY UPDATE 2009

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STOP PRESS

Launch of Revised Code of Practice to stakeholders – 8th June 2009

The IHAS has organised this event to launch the revised Code of Practice *for Handling Complaints in the Independent sector* to key external stakeholders being held at the St Stephens Club.

The IHAS is pleased to welcome **Baroness Barbara Young, Chairmen of CQC** to speak at this high profile event. A wide range of guests representing key stakeholders will be attending including **the Deputy Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee**

Invitations have also been sent to member organisation. We will include a report of the event in the June update.

IHAS Advisory Board Meeting with Cynthia Bower took place on May 1st

The IHAS Board met with Cynthia Bower, CEO of the CQC, and led her through the sectors priorities and issued a series of challenges to foster closer working with the independent sector aiming to reduce the bureaucratic burden. These were presented as the top 10 issues along with suggested improvements from the sector including: reducing delays and duplication with CRB's and registration issues; inconsistency in lead assessor judgements, consistent year on year self assessment tools for core requirements; the level playing field and proportionality with NHS and independent sectors; improved clarity and interpretation of notification events; CRB duplication and practicing privileges; administrative burden of regulation; flexibility and proportionality of standards and recognition of accreditation schemes; revalidation and practising privileges; reporting and monitoring of irrelevant and inappropriate data. The meeting was welcomed by the board and although many challenges were raised the IHAS believes that the CQC listened and that there will be a positive and constructive relationship with the regulator.

The IHAS Revalidation Group has been active

The work of the **NHS Revalidation Support Team** and the proposal to undertake an **Appraisal Pilot in the Independent Sector** was presented at the last meeting by **Dr Keith Judkins – Medical Director NHS Revalidation Support Team.** The proposed format of the Independent Health Sector Pilot proposal will include testing the Assuring the Quality of Medical Appraisal for Revalidation Framework (AQMAR) toolkit.

Practising Privileges guidance – A meeting has been held with the BMA between Mr Derek Machin and Dr Andy Jones IHAS Revalidation Group Chair. The BMA wished to have further discussions on the Appeals mechanism and Hepatitis C and HIV Screening.

RMO's have been now included as a category in the Draft 3 of the Whole Practice Appraisal paper. Form 4 in future is likely to be called *Post Appraisal Documentation.*

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Responsible Officer –The response to the consultation has now been published
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH098851
The timetable has changed recently but has not yet been approved by the UK Revalidation Programme Board.

2009

- May Publish response to consultation
- June Publish and consult on draft regulations and guidance
- November Finalise regulations

2010

- February Lay regulations before Parliament
- April Organisations start the appointment process
- October Legislation comes into force and responsible officers in place. First doctors undergo revalidation.

GMC Affiliates Pilots – North London & West Yorkshire – The KPMG's half way report on the pilot project is now available The pilot is due to finish in September 2009. The report contains positive comments on how the pilot is working but concerns how the proposed structure would be financed are raised in the report.

UK Revalidation Implementation Board update has now formed a Communications Group to ensure that the same messages around the communication of revalidation happen in all 4 countries and to ensure understanding of the project streams.

Progress in Scotland.
Dr Fergus Macpherson Spire Healthcare represents Scotland - He has been invited to talk on the role of the Responsible Officer in the Independent Sector on October 27 by the Scottish Government Health Department. **Wales, Dr Anna Thomas Consultant Psychiatrist Ludlow Healthcare is attending the Programme Delivery Board in Wales on behalf of WIHA** – she has agreed to pilot appraisal at Ludlow Healthcare. **Northern Ireland had its first meeting on May 26th – more to come in the next Update.**

Meeting to take forward the National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS) MoU with IHAS was held. Representing the sector was Viv Heckford Head of Doctor Engagement Nuffield Health and Mr Ian Mackay representing the Independent Doctors Forum. They met with Elaine Stevenson Head of Project Development (Policy) (NCAS) and Vickie Voller. Head of Education and Support Services. The outcome of the meeting was that NCAS would develop a draft programme for a development day to be held later in the year. Attendees will include invitations to members of IHAS, MAC Chairs, IDF, London Consultants Association, BMA Private Practice Group, FIPO and representative private sector managers. Preparation for revalidation would be a component of the day. NCAS have agreed to review cases referred to them by the independent sector regarding referral themes, outcomes and costs to share as part of a review of the MoU. IHAS and IDF will develop some case scenarios for use in the development day. The purpose of these would be to tease out the challenges faced by the independent sector in identifying and managing emerging performance concerns including the issue of the single handed lone practitioner in this sector. NCAS also agreed to explore access for the independent sector to Alert Letters. The MoU will be reviewed so if you do have any comments please do contact Sally Taber.

The IHAS Perioperative Care Group chaired by Shirley Edwards Chief Nurse from HCA International London Bridge Hospital met to discuss the implementation of the WHO Safer Surgery Alert, the progress with the Perioperative Care Collaborative and the DH Theatre Capability Tool. If you would like to hear more about the work, please contact Sally Taber

The Hellenic project is a pioneering data collection and benchmarking programme allowing the independent sector to benchmark its clinical and non-clinical performance alongside the NHS. The supporting system to manage the data and clinical indicators will be built by Dr Foster Research and its partner Healthcode. This will reduce the burden of data submission to other regulatory bodies as well as allowing providers to respond more authoritatively on relative performance and achievement of high patient quality outcomes using independently verified data. **Contact Sally Taber for information about joining the project.**

Skills for Health launches its new website
The new site provides access to a wide range of solutions and tools to support skills development within the UK health sector. If you are interested in upskilling your workforce, this new site provides valuable information on qualification and learning pathways. The update will carry a dedicated section on workforce issues from June.
http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/

The British Academy of Cosmetic Practice chaired by Mr Chris Khoo past president of BAPRAS is making progress with a report currently in draft for the 4 Chief Medical Officers to obtain their support for the Academy. It will be proposed to the IHAS Advisory Board in July that all Surgeons undertaking Cosmetic Surgery in IHAS member Hospitals must be members of the Academy in order to ensure that standards are continuously improved.

IHAS engagement with CQC

- **Periodic Reviews**

The IHAS has attended a workshop and contributed to the start of CQC's engagement with stakeholders in starting to work on developing CQC's Periodic Reviews. A consultation is likely during the summer outlining the approach for the 2010/11 reviews. It is clear that CQC will be adding an increasing weight to the views of the users of services in the reviews and will acknowledge good practices as well as deficits. This is the start of the work which is providing opportunities for the sector to influence the models that may be used. More detailed information has been circulated to organisation representatives who have previously attended the registration guidance workshops.

- **Draft Registration Regulations**

The IHAS has responded to the consultation on the framework for the registration of health and adult social care providers and the draft Regulations having collected feedback from its members and the Board. This was a significant consultation as it contains the regulations that define the scope of regulated activities and draft regulations about registration requirements. The response document will be available on the IHAS website in June.

The IHAS will also be attending the consultation events for the registration standards and will be asking members for comments about those standards to be able to respond on behalf of the sector during June and July to forthcoming consultation document. The IHAS and the sector have provided feedback to CQC on the early draft registration guidance documents.

Critical Care Transfer – Good News at last

The IHAS is pleased to announce the Critical Care Transfer document has been agreed with the DH Stakeholder Group which includes the Intensive Care Society. The transfer document can be found on the IHAS website. The document entitles all patients transferring to NHS Critical Care Units to transfer as NHS Patients avoiding the arguments about who pays. The DH has formally communicated the details of the document to NHS organisations via the Urgent and Emergency Update – A bulletin for everyone working in urgent and emergency care. www.dh.gov.uk/ecbulletin

The IT Council met in May under the chairmanship of James Greenman Care UK - Liz Smithies Programme Manager for the independent sector gave an update on progress to date with the Connecting for Health agenda and the new governance arrangements in Christine Connelly's team. Max Jones will be the new Project lead for the independent sector replacing Mary Barber. Martin Orton from the Information Centre talked about data quality and how it had improved but also the new set of quality indicators that had been published on **www.ic.nhs.uk/mqi.** Jehan De Silva from Dr Foster Research talked to the IT Leads on the Hellenic Project which would dovetail with the quality improvement agenda for the NHS. Rob Moorhead from the DH presented on the Image Exchange Router. The IT Council are currently reviewing their terms of reference to cover those undertaking work for the NHS but also those caring for independent sector patients.

Sally Taber attended the NMC's Chair's Coalition – key items being the review of Pre-Registration Nursing Education with a timeframe of Autumn 2011 for implementation. Of particular interest to the independent sector will be the proposed mandatory preceptorship for newly qualified nurses. The review of this proposal will be done in conjunction with the non-medical Revalidation programme. The NMC Policy on Professional Indemnity Insurance and the fact that this is delayed while the Government reviews it was noted. A discussion also took place around the issues with International Recruitment. The NMC were asked if a review was possible in particular around the 20 days Protected Learning.

The Independent Healthcare Awards

A new category has been added to the 2009 Independent Healthcare Awards due to popular demand; "EXCELLENCE IN RISK MANAGEMENT AWARD". The Excellence in Risk Management Award seeks to reward those companies who demonstrate active pursuit of risk management and continuous improvement that supports patient outcomes/safety and resiliency, sustainability and professional integrity of the organisation. The award will be presented at the Independent Healthcare Awards Gala Dinner on 22 September by the category sponsors Marsh Ltd. Entries are now being sought for this prestigious award. The deadline for receiving nominations to this category is quite short. Therefore, please complete the entry form (closes by 30 June 2009):
http://www.independenthealthcareawards.co.uk/documents/Entryform.pdf
http://www.independenthealthcareawards.co.uk/
Good luck.

Flu Pandemic
Full guidance is available at www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/PandemicFlu, including guidance on managing demand and capacity. CMO issued alerts to GPs recently, which are available on: www.cas.dh.gov.uk/Home.aspx. Suspected cases should be tested and referred as appropriate to the HPA, http://www.hpa.org.uk/ . Cross-Government information is available at: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm.
A copy of the May Flu news is sent to members organisations with this update. A recorded dedicated telephone line has been set up for up to date information about swine flu. Members of the public can call 0800 1513513 for recorded information about swine flu. In Scotland, anyone with concerns about the virus can call 08454 24 24 24.

Reminder - The Healthcare Commission logo is no more, from **31st March 2009.** Registered healthcare providers that include the HC logo on their website and headed paper should **remove it from 1st April 2009,** when the Healthcare Commission ceases to be a legal entity. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has not yet decided on a logo policy and has an interim logo only, so this should not be used to substitute for the old HC logo unless further instructions are issued.

Complaints and adjudication news

Congratulations to IHAS Principle Adjudicator in her appointment to the QC Complaints Committee
Lisa Ball (ISCAS's Principle Adjudicator), an independent member of the Ministry of Defence's Service Complaints Panels, has been appointed as the lay member of the Queen's Counsel Complaints Committee. The Complaints Committee is independent of the Queen's Counsel appointments process, and is charged with considering and determining complaints raised by applicants in respect of the treatment of their application within that process.

Adjudicator's Monthly Message to Members:
When to refer cases to Stage 3:
The adjudication service should be seen as a resource that can be used selectively to bring about complaint resolution in a timely and efficient way. When it becomes clear that the time and effort being expended in trying to close a case is greater than the results being achieved, it is important to consider whether to refer the case for adjudication.
Regular assessment of whether cases are progressing or not can assist in the decision to Stage 3 and questions to consider includes:

- how long has the case been in the system?
- have the heads of complaint increased over the course of the investigation?
- have the issues become more, not less, complex?
- is independent clinical advice needed?
- is the complainant increasingly resistant to the explanations being offered?

The benefits of timely referral to Stage 3 is that costs of adjudication are generally lower if cases have not been allowed to 'grow' and the sooner cases are resolved the better it is for complainants and the complained against. When a case has the hall marks of an inability to be resolved at Stage one it may be worth considering fast tracking the complaint onto stage 3 adjudication if the organisation's CEO is in agreement. A good question to ask is "will anything be added to the process at stage 2?" If no then consider referral to adjudication.

News from the Care Quality Commission – http://www.cqcseniorrecruitment.com/

The Care Quality Commission brings together the work of the Commission for Social Care and Inspection (CSCI), the Healthcare Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission. This is the first opportunity to integrate health and social care under a single regulator.

The CQC is responsible for registering, reviewing and inspecting services and has powers of enforcement exercisable in response to failures by providers to meet the legal requirements of registration; including failure to register. The enforcement powers include the existing powers granted by the Care Standards Act (CSA) 2000 namely: imposing, removing or varying conditions on registration; prosecuting for specified offences and cancelling registration as well as three new powers granted by the HSCA 2008, namely: issuing warning notices, issuing financial penalty notices and suspending registration of an organisation.

David Johnstone, has been appointed national director of operations in the Care Quality
Formerly Devon County Council's director for adult and community Services

Invitation to CQC consultation event on new registration standards
CQC announces two national consultation events for people who use services, care providers and stakeholders on June 16, Birmingham and July 22, London. The new registration system will make sure that all registered health and adult social care services are meeting common quality standards, that the rights of people who use services are protected and promoted, and that swift action is taken where services are failing people. CQC events website:
https://www.greengagelive.com/Events/?RID=125

Registration standards
CQC will soon be launching a public consultation to help develop guidance which makes clear to care providers what they need to do to be compliant with new registration requirements. The consultation will run from **1 June 2009 to 24 August 2009**. More information from: enquiries@cqc.org.uk.

Information about CQC's fees for registration and annual fees can be found at:
http://www.cqc.org.uk/_db/_documents/Fees_guidance_(IH)_2009-10.pdf

Registration guidance and forms for CQC can now be found at:
http://www.cqc.org.uk/guidanceforprofessionals/registration/healthcare/independenthealthcareregistration/formsandguidance.cfm

Healthcare News Snippets

Commercial Operating Model launched

A new Commercial Operating Model has been launched, setting out how commercial skills will be organised and applied across NHS organisations – working with a range of partners – and what benefits it will bring. The model will increase commercial capability by creating new regional commercial support units, setting up a new, central commercial centre within the DH, making the 10-year NHS supply chain contract more efficient and ensuring that the non-Government, voluntary and private sectors have a clear point of contact in each NHS region. A new strategic market development unit will be responsible for leadership and support commissioners in market analysis.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098876

UK Protects Working Time Opt Out
Talks on the EU Working Time Directive have broken down without agreement being reached. The collapse sees the end of the European Parliament's proposal to phase out the opt-out in three years. The UK and other countries have consistently held firm against this proposal. A conciliation meeting in Brussels between the Member States, European Parliament and the European Commission was unable to resolve the long-standing differences between the European Parliament and member states over whether to retain the opt-out or not. With the deadline for reaching an agreement rapidly approaching, and the differences between the parties too great, it was agreed there was no value in continuing the negotiations any further.

The dossier in its current form will formally fall when the conciliation timetable reaches its conclusion in May. It will then be for the European Commission to decide how to proceed.

First company charged with corporate manslaughter in UK
For the first time in the UK, a company has been charged under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007, following the death of an employee, in September 2008.A company director has also been charged with gross negligence manslaughter; both the company and a director have also been charged with breaches of health and safety legislation. This is the first prosecution under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act, which was brought in to make it easier to hold companies accountable for the death of their employees. A company will be guilty of corporate manslaughter if the way its activities are managed or organised causes a death, and amounts to a gross breach of the duty of care to the person who died. A substantial part of the breach must have been in the way its activities were organised by senior management. If convicted, the company will face an unlimited fine.

Picker Institute Response to the DH consultation draft Regulations for Registration with CQC
The Picker Institute recommends that the two draft regulations which are most relevant to the experience and engagement of service users should be amended to make them stronger, and to concord with Department of Health stated policy and the NHS Constitution. Full response below:http://www.pickereurope.org/Filestore/Policy/consultations/Picker_Institute_Experience_and_engagement_in_the_requirements_for_providers_of_health_and_social_care_final.pdf

National Leadership Council

The formation of a council was recommended in *High Quality Care for All* to help develop world-class leadership in the NHS. Its design has been the subject of extensive consultation with the NHS and leadership experts. A sub-committee of the NHS Management Board, the council is chaired by NHS Chief Executive, David Nicholson. The NLC will focus on five key issues – strengthening clinical leadership, board development, top leaders, inclusion and emerging leaders.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHworks/BoardsandCommittees/DH_097657

Evaluation of Collaborative Risk summits – report for the Healthcare Commission
In December and January 2008 the Healthcare Commission held a series of planned collaborative risk summits attended by a mix of staff from regulators and inspectorates in each region. The Healthcare Commission commissioned the Office for Public Management (OPM) to run an online survey with everyone who attended these meetings. The survey asked attendees to give their views on the preparation, delivery and impact of the risk summits and aims to evaluate the difference that they are making to the way that risk is collectively understood and acted on.

Many respondents praised the risk summits meetings as being a useful and positive experience and there was broad agreement that they were a good use of their time. The meetings are providing a valuable space in which attendees can network, share local intelligence and discuss and learn about the handling of concerns and the management of risk. Respondents felt that the summits could be improved with having more time to prepare and allocate time better to the meetings. It was also felt that elements of the risk assessment process could be improved, specifically: the consistency of ratings; relevance of evidence and the weighting given to information. The continuation of this work in CQC will be led by Alan Rosenbach, Head of Strategy Development & Innovation.

Swine flu strengthening the response

David Nicholson has written to SHA chief executives to urge them to continue taking all necessary action to ensure readiness and that appropriate care is delivered. Ian Dalton has been appointed National Director for NHS Flu Resilience at the DH and will be responsible for ensuring that all NHS organisations in England build on the robust planning that is already in place to deal with a flu pandemic, that NHS front-line organisations are supplied with adequate equipment and drugs, and leading on appropriate vaccination programmes. Guidance is available on the DH website, and individuals seeking further information should call the swine flu information line or visit

http://www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx

Personal security alarms 30,000 lone NHS workers to receive

30,000 lone NHS workers are to receive personal security alarms from today, following a commitment made by Health Secretary Alan Johnson to improve the safety and security of staff. The lone worker alarm system is designed for nurses and other healthcare staff who work in isolation from colleagues and may need the ability to call for assistance when their personal security is threatened. The devices will help locate the user and link to a trained individual who can summon help if needed.
http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=400472&NewsAreaID=2

Information Governance Assurance Framework
The framework is formed by elements of law and policy from which applicable information governance standards are derived, plus the activities and roles which individually and collectively ensure that these standards are clearly defined and met.
http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/infogov/igap/igaf

A number of revised **NHSLA risk management standards, for assessment from 1 April 2009,** have been released. NHSLA Risk Management Standards for Acute Trusts, Primary Care Trusts and Independent Sector Providers of NHS Care (single document), NHSLA Risk Management Standards for Mental Health & Learning Disability Trusts. The revised CNST Maternity Clinical Risk Management Standards, for assessment during 2009/10, have also been published. Section 8 of each manual provides information on the significant changes made to the standards since the previous version.
http://www.nhsla.com/News/#%7B8FE0E547-794B-4580-8D1B-29E1BC30DBB7%7D

Joint Defra, Welsh Assembly Government and Environment Agency review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting

The Government's response to the consultation will be published once some policy issues, including the proposal to charge for exemption registrations, have been resolved. The original proposal was to

implement revised regulations by October 2009. However, the high level of stakeholder engagement during and since the consultation has led to an increased number of policy issues requiring resolution. There is also a desire to ensure guidance, new permits and registration systems will allow for appropriate stakeholder engagement and meet stakeholder expectations. As a result it is no longer possible to implement the review by October 2009. Defra, Welsh Assembly Government and the Environment Agency have therefore decided to put back the implementation of new regulations until the next available opportunity in April 2010. If you have any queries visit the website: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/management/exemptions/

NPSA Rapid Response Report: Preventing harm to children from parents with mental health needs

Child protection is everybody's business. All NHS mental health services have existing statutory responsibilities for child protection. While mental illness can be compatible with good parenting, some parents with a severe mental illness are at risk of harming their children. Very serious risks may arise if their illness incorporates delusional beliefs about the child, and/or the potential for the parent to harm the child as part of a suicide plan. Staff in adult mental health services caring for a parent must always consider the child's needs and the potential for physical and psychological harm as primary task of the Care Programme Approach (CPA) and as part of multiagency risk assessment processes. Risks should also be considered for service users who are not parents but are in contact with children e.g. service users with child siblings or grandchildren. Concerns about patient confidentiality should never delay acting as soon as a problem, suspicion or concern about children becomes apparent. The 6 action points in the report have a deadline for 27 November 2009.

http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/nrls/alerts-and-directives/rapidrr/preventing-harm-to-children-from-parents-with-mental-health-needs/

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) Update

Road shows

The dates for the Vetting & Barring Scheme Information Roadshows have been announced, the roadshows are being presented in association with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The roadshows will explain the scope of the scheme and its impact on employers, voluntary organisations and service users, and provide an opportunity for delegates to have their questions answered.

Strengthened responsibilities for the ISA in October

A year after the Darlington-based ISA began advising Government Ministers on who should be barred from working with children and vulnerable adults, the organisation is gearing itself up for its pivotal role in the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS). The Scheme covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland. On October 12th 2009 – the ISA's responsibilities for barring individuals who pose a known risk from working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults will be further strengthened as more sectors – such as the NHS and the Prison Service – will come under the Scheme and new criminal offences will come into force. While the ISA is presently making decisions based on the current legislation, it is also ensuring that both the right people and systems are in place for all phases of the Scheme - the October roll-out; July 2010 when those covered by the Scheme can apply and the November 2010 date when those covered by the Scheme must apply.

http://www.isa-gov.org.uk/pdf/ISA_Stakeholder_newsletter_MAY_2009_V3.pdf

Enquiries to: scheme.info@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

General Medical Council (GMC) – http://www.gmc-uk.org/cg/index.htm

See consultations.

NICE Guidance – http://www.nice.org.uk

Clinical Guidelines

Low back pain: Early management of persistent non-specific low back pain

http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11887

Type 2 diabetes - the management of type 2 diabetes (partial update)

http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=12165

Recognition and assessment of coeliac disease

http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=12166

Interventional Procedures

Transmyocardial laser revascularisation for refractory angina pectoris

http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11346

Percutaneous endoscopic laser lumbar discectomy

http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=12073

Percutaneous laser revascularisation for refractory angina pectoris

http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11341

Tenotomy of horizontal eye muscles for nystagmus (with reattachment at their original insertions)

http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11993

Nursing & Midwifery Council – http://www.nmc-uk.org/aDefault.aspx

Survey on clinical roles

The NMC are looking for people working as Surgical Care Practitioners (Surgical Assistants), Physicians Assistant (Anaesthesia) (Anaesthesia Practitioners), Physicians Assistant (Medical Care Practitioner), Emergency Care Practitioners and Endoscopy Practitioners to take part in this survey. The results will contribute to an NMC project to assess the numbers of practitioners working in these roles and what training they have received.

Advice for nurses and midwives during an influenza pandemic

Nurses and midwives are expected to practise within their competency and acknowledge the limitations of their practice. If working outside their normal area or scope of practice, nurses and midwives must consider that in accordance with *The Code* they are accountable for their actions or omissions, regardless of guidance given by another professional, and as such must consider their duty of care to the public. Their first consideration in all activities must be in the interests and safety of the people in their care. Only a registered midwife with a current Intention to Practice can provide care or advice to a woman in relation to her pregnancy. Midwives are able to extend their scope of practice to provide nursing duties if they are competent to do so. People who are not registered with the NMC cannot work as a nurse or midwife in the UK, but they can be utilised in a supportive capacity. The NMC have provisions in place to register eligible individuals as rapidly as possible.

The full position statement and information for nurses and midwives on their role during an influenza pandemic is available at http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=3689

NMC Website

Over the course of this year the NMC will be working to introduce a more modern website which is easy to use and relevant to the people who need it. In order to do that they are working with focus groups made up of representatives from patient groups, nurses and midwives, students and members of the public, as well as some staff from the NMC.

Any suggestions can be sent to - web.development@nmc-uk.org

Take part in the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3A0xMFVvtHK0CwZ_2bSK6MTg_3d_3d

Attend a focus group - http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=3647

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=38LGjSYH_2bmEjl_2b_2bYnK_2bzAQ_3d_3d

EU Midwifery Regulators agree to new network

Midwifery Regulators from eighteen European countries have met in London to discuss ways in which they can collaborate to enhance the safety of women and babies across the EU. The event was the first of its kind to bring together regulators of midwives from across the continent. Focused on the challenges posed by EU legislation on the freedom of movement of professionals across Europe, the summit was open and interactive, and saw a high level of participation by attendees. Issues discussed included the diversity in midwife training and scope of practice across Europe as well as the importance of sharing fitness to practise information on midwives crossing borders.

Those present at the event welcomed an initiative, put forward by the French Order of Midwives and the NMC, to develop an informal network of European midwifery regulators. The aim of such a network will be to improve the exchange of best practice between regulators and to co-ordinate joint communications with EU decision makers on issues of mutual concern, especially in regard to EU legislation.

Information Technology/Governance

NHS Information centre

http://www.knowledge.ic.nhs.uk/ebulletins/ic_knowledge/index.asp?newsletter_ID=128

NHS Comparators

Users can access, compare and generate reports at practice, primary care trust, strategic health authority and national level from a wide range of information spanning nearly 150 comparators. These cover multiple condition areas such as heart disease, diabetes, mental health and trauma, and a range of subjects including spending, outpatient appointments and emergency admissions.

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/the-secondary-uses-service-sus/nhs-comparators

Data Quality programme

The NHS IC's data quality programme is a national programme whose aim is to improve data quality in health and social care by raising awareness of the need for data quality, helping data suppliers to improve data quality and by providing data suppliers and data users with a data quality grading scheme. http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/in-development/the-data-quality-programme

Way forward for the National Programme for IT

A comprehensive strategy for accelerating the pace of delivery for the National Programme for IT (NPfIT) and introducing additional supplier capacity was outlined by the Department of Health's Director General for Informatics today.

https://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=399939&NewsAreaID=2

NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service

The NHS Data Model and Dictionary Service provides the development, maintenance and support of NHS data standards. The NHS Data Model and Dictionary provides a reference point for assured information standards to support health care activities within the NHS in England.

http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/data/nhsdmds

Directory of Services website which contains ECN/FCN

http://www.directory-of-services.info/

Independent sector Extended Choice Network activities

Month	Reported spend £ ('000)	% change from previous month	Procedures	% change from previous month	No. of hospitals approved	No. of hospitals listed on Choose & Book
Jan-07					1	1
Feb-07					6	1
Mar-07					21	9
Jul-07	614	80%	297	92%	109	61
Aug-07	617	1%	327	10%	100	70
Sep-07	1,507	144%	638	95%	109	78
Oct-07	2,092	39%	940	47%	126	86
Nov-07	2,549	22%	1,070	14%	133	92
Dec-07	2,544	0%	1,255	17%	137	93
Jan-08	2,876	13%	1,438	15%	133	81
Feb-08	4,164	45%	1,868	30%	136	81
Mar-08	3,905	-6%	1,802	-4%	137	83
Apr-08	4,520	16%	2,078	15%	139	78
May-08	4,243	-6%	1,986	-4%	139	83
Jun-08	5,401	27%	2,501	26%	146	79
Jul-08	6,574	22%	2,834	13%	148	81
Aug-08	6,128	-7%	2,819	-1%	148	84
Sep-08	7,639	25%	3,634	29%	147	88
Oct-08	9,410	23%	4,535	25%	148	91
Nov-08	9,477	1%	4,343	-4%	149	91
Dec-08	8,178	-14%	3,843	-12%	149	92
Jan-09	8,326	2%	3,785	-2%	149	106
Feb-09	10,241	23%	5,071	34%	149	118
Mar-09	12,141	19%	5,688	12%	150	125
TOTAL	**113,147**		**52,752**			

Business News

Opportunities to bid for government contracts - 2012 Olympics - A number of contracts are on offer for the 2012 Olympics that may be appropriate for IHAS members. The 2012 Olympics contract information can be accessed free of charge. **http://www.supply2.gov.uk/about_competefor.shtml**

CompeteFor.com is an award-winning website that allows businesses to apply for contract opportunities linked to the London 2012 Olympic Games. The website matches both private and public sector contract opportunities within the London 2012 supply chain to businesses of all sizes and allows them to apply using a short online process.

Business opportunities - Supply2.gov.uk is the official Government lower-value (typically below £100,000) contract opportunity portal, created by the Government to provide small businesses with access to lower-value public sector contracts - a potential market which can provide small businesses with the stability they need to thrive and grow. Visit **http://www.supply2.gov.uk/**.

Consultations

National Patient Safety Agency
The NPSA is seeking comments from organisations and individuals concerning a draft Patient Safety Alert promoting a purchasing for safety initiative for neuraxial (spinal and epidural) medical devices with safer connectors to further minimise wrong route errors. **Closes 19 June 2009**.
http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/nrls/medication-zone/safer-connectors/stakeholder/

GMC Fitness to Practise, **Proposals to extend the use of consensual disposal**
This consultation considers proposals to make more effective use of powers to conclude appropriate cases at the investigation stage of the GMC's fitness to practise procedures, by agreeing undertakings with doctors. These powers are known as 'consensual disposal'. **Closes 19 June 2009**
https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=72&status=2&criteria=I

DH Chief Executive Bulletins – http://www.dh.gov.uk May 2009

Same-sex accommodation programme- update
This letter is an update on progress in delivering same-sex accommodation and confirms further actions required in the coming months. It also contains the definitions drawn up for delivering the same-sex accommodation programme.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefnursingofficerletters/DH_098894

Government response - Lord Laming's recommendations
On 6 May, the Government released its detailed response to Lord Laming's report on the protection of children. The response sets out the specific actions that the Government will take, in partnership with local agencies and key stakeholders, to address each of Lord Laming's recommendations.
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/

Creating an innovative culture
A new legal duty for SHAs to promote innovation, which will act as an enabling tool for SHAs in driving innovation forward within local communities, commenced on 27th April. Best practice guidance - explaining the purpose of the duty, what it means for patients, public and staff, and where to seek further information - has also been issued.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098540

Independent mental health advocates guidance
The DH has published advice in response to questions about whether independent mental health advocates (IMHAs) may access information in patients' health and social services records which would not be disclosed directly to patients, and, if so, whether IMHAs may disclose it to patients.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098828

Breakthrough to real change in local healthcare
The DH is investing £10 million in the introduction of Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIECs) across England. HIECs will be partnerships between NHS, higher education, industry and other public and private sector organisations. They will support the spread and adoption of innovation locally and strengthen professional education and training. This publication is a guide to the application process to create HIECs.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098887

Carbon reduction commitment
The carbon reduction commitment (CRC) is a new Government backed legislative carbon emissions trading scheme due to be introduced April 2010. This will cover all organisations, including NHS service providers who operate from sites using electricity bought through a half-hourly reading meter and using more than 6,000 mega watt hours (MWh) per annum.
www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/crc/crc.aspx

2008/09 flu uptake data published
The final uptake figures for the seasonal influenza vaccination campaign 2008/09 are now available in two reports covering the GP flu campaign and the health care worker flu campaign.
Link: www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Professional_Information/Key_vaccine_information/Flu

How to, Why to Guide
The NHS Technology Adoption Centre (NTAC) has launched its first *How to, Why to Guide* which outlines how to successfully implement specific innovative technologies into NHS organisations. The first guide is provided for a new urological surgical technique using the Seldinger Suprapubic Catheter (SPC). This technique combines increased safety and ease of use facilitating the transfer of the technique to the outpatient setting, resulting in reduced hospital stay for elderly, vulnerable patients.
www.technologyadoptioncentre.nhs.uk/the-suprapubic-foley-catheter-kit/executive-summary.html

Hospital standardised mortality ratios
NHS Choices has today published hospital standardised mortality ratios (HSMRs) for acute hospital trusts covering the period July 2007 to June 2008. The figures will be updated monthly.
www.nhs.uk/hsmr

European Working Time Directive (EWTD) derogation
This letter from Flora Goldhill, DH Workforce Director, highlights the strict timetable for EWTD derogation process which must be met by DH in order to meet the timetable for the laying of the Statutory Instrument in Parliament on 24 June.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_099150

NHS pension choice exercise
The pension choice exercise will run for almost three years, enabling 1.3 million members of the NHS pension scheme to choose whether to transfer all of their service to the new 2008 section of the NHS pension scheme. NHS Employers is undertaking work to help employers understand the strategic implications and what they need to do to ensure that they are prepared. This will also be led by NHS pensions who will provide dedicated support to each region.
NHS Pensions Choice
www.nhsemployers.org/Aboutus/latestnews/Pages/NHSPensionsChoiceExercise.aspx
NHS Business Services Authority
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pensions

Design bugs out
Prototypes of innovative new designs for existing hospital furniture and equipment, aimed at helping the fight against MRSA and other healthcare associated infections, were unveiled by the Design Council on 28 April. An exhibition of designs and prototypes is currently touring a number of NHS hospitals until 19 May.
www.designbugsout.org.uk

Environmental design guide: adult medium secure units
The DH has launched a consultation on revisions to previously published medium secure environmental guidance (Design Guide 1993). It is anticipated the document will annex (and should be read in conjunction with) the *Best practice guidance and specification for adult medium secure services*, published by the DH in 2007.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/liveconsultations/DH_098324

Looked after children consultation
The *Promoting the health and well-being of looked after children* consultation document aims to revise the statutory guidance to PCTs and SHAs previously published in 2002 by the DH. The consultation period runs until August 3 2009.
www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1610&external=no&menu=1

Vascular programme briefing pack
This revised pack was prepared in 2009 to provide the ten SHAs with an assessment of progress, opportunities and future challenges in key areas of vascular disease, namely coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes and renal disease.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098627

The NHS Litigation Authority has revised and updated its circular, and this new edition has been endorsed and counter-signed by numerous other organisations. The circular will be of particular relevance to claims and complaints managers, risk managers and clinicians.

www.nhsla.com/NR/rdonlyres/00F14BA6-0621-4A23-B885-FA18326FF745/0/ApologiesandExplanationsMay1st2009.pdf

Urgent care in general practice
The DH is pleased to announce the advanced release of a sponsored report *Urgent care: a practical guide to transforming same-day care in general practice*, prepared by the Primary Care Foundation. The report is supported by both the BMA and the Royal College of General Practitioners. It focuses on the range of practical steps general practice can take to improve patient care and safety, as well as reducing workload in the practice and emergency hospital admissions.
www.primarycarefoundation.co.uk/page9/page19/page19.html

Summary of benchmark of out of hours services
This report provides a robust comparison of costs and performance that is widely accepted as providing a real basis for review by both provider and commissioner. It paints a comprehensive view of the services offered up and down the UK – the strengths and where improvements can be made.
www.primarycarefoundation.co.uk/page1/page21/page21.html

Commissioning fertility services conference
Dawn Primarolo, the Public Health Minister, will be launching a guide setting out best practice in commissioning fertility services at a conference for commissioners on 18 June 2009 in London. The conference will also enable commissioners to share best practice and tools to achieve excellence in fertility services and will highlight the latest developments in the sector.
www.tcp-events.co.uk/nationalfertilityconference

Temporary supply of AHP and healthcare science staff
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) has launched a three-year agreement for the temporary supply of AHPs and health science services staff to the NHS. Patient and clinical risk will be managed through regular auditing of participating suppliers by NHS PASA's National Audit Team.
www.pasa.nhs.uk/ahp_hss

2009 heatwave plan
(Gateway reference number: 11767)
A revised heatwave plan for England has been reissued. Key changes to the 2009 heatwave plan include greater clarity for those with respiratory problems and more information on the health housing and safety rating system. Minor changes have also been made to the alert levels, to ensure consistency with other severe weather warning alert levels.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_099015

Prompt payment code
This letter from David Nicholson encourages SHAs and NHS trusts to adopt the principles incorporated within the prompt payment code. This is a payment initiative developed by Government with the Institute of Credit Management (ICM) to tackle the crucial issue of late payment and help small businesses.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_099287

NHS Evidence
NHS Evidence provides access to a comprehensive evidence base for everyone in health and social care who takes decisions about treatments or the use of resources – including clinicians, commissioners and service managers. NHS Evidence will help users identify the best evidence by sorting, sifting and prioritising information and awarding an accreditation mark to the most reliable sources of guidance.
www.evidence.nhs.uk

NCI Conference – patient involvement
The NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI) summer conference – 'The Future of Involvement – putting patients at the heart of services' will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster on 2 July. The conference will highlight key questions for policy makers and practitioners around involvement and its implementation within health and social care services.
www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/conference2009

World class commissioning programme
The letter below from Gary Belfield gives an update on the world class commissioning programme covering evaluation of the assurance process, the announcement of the integrated care pilots and practice-based commissioning improvement team visits.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/DH_099882

Age discrimination - call for evidence
The letter below confirms the the Secretary of State for Health has asked Sir Ian Carruthers and Jan Ormondroyd to lead a review of age discrimination in health and social care. The letter launches a call for evidence from health and social care organisations and other stakeholders.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_099857

NICE recommendations
The letter below from Professor Mike Richards states the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) are undertaking a baseline assessment of existing capacity and plans for surgeons wishing to undertake laparoscopic resections for colorectal cancer, and ensuring they offer choice of procedure. NCAT are asking cancer network directors to discuss capacity issues with interested parties to inform discussions about lifting or extending the waiver obtained on the NICE three-month funding directive.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_099792

Understanding what matters
This guide sets out best practice in terms of collecting, analysing and using patient feedback to transform services. It also includes examples of how the NHS is already using feedback from patients to get results and is one of a number of tools being produced to help services understand and respond to what really matters to patients and their experiences of care.
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_099780

NHS Health Check learning workshop
To support the implementation of the NHS Health Check programme, a learning network has been established. The next learning network event will take place on 16 June in Leeds.
www.improvement.nhs.uk/NHSHealthCheck/TheLearningNetwork/tabid/55/Default.aspx

European working time directive Review of the effect on junior doctor training
A review into the quality of training for junior doctors in light of the implementation of the European working time directive was announced by Alan Johnson. The review will consider the concerns raised by some professionals that the introduction of a 48-hour working week may have a detrimental effect on junior doctors' training, particularly on the training they receive while at work. Medical Education England, the independent advisory board on medical training, will commission the Post-graduate Medical Education and Training Board to identify areas where changes to training might be necessary as a consequence of reduced working hours.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_099740

NHS Constitution Toolkit launched
The NHS Constitution was launched on 21 January 2009, marking a milestone in the history of the NHS. For the first time, we have clarity for staff, patients and taxpayers, about what they can expect of the NHS, and what is expected of them in return. A toolkit of resources has been co-produced with a reference group of NHS communicators. We hope that it will enable local staff engagement with the Constitution, so that they understand the value of it, both for themselves and for their patients.

Conferences

ABI Biennial Conference 9 June
The conference will help delegates understand the key trends - fiscal, regulatory, political and monetary - which will shape the future of the insurance industry.
http://www.abi.org.uk/Events/EventDetail.asp?EID=154

Laing & Buisson Conference Programme 2009

- **16 June** **Investing in Healthcare in Europe**
- **22 Sept** **Independent Healthcare Awards**
- **22 Sept** **Independent Health & Care Convention**
- **22 Oct** **Annual Investing in Healthcare Conference**

Westminster Health Forum Keynote Seminar - Healthcare Associated Infections 2009: Improving Cleanliness, Competence and Confidence
Morning, **2nd June 2009**, Central London
Janice Stevens**,** Director, MRSA/Cleaner Hospitals Programme, Department of Health
http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/dietandhealthforum/bookhcai09.html

The BMA's Central Consultants and Specialists Committee UK Consultants Conference and dinner 2009 - BMA House, Tavistock Square, London - Wednesday 3 June.
Each NHS medical staff committee (or equivalent) in the UK is entitled to appoint a representative. The Conference Agenda Committee, however, also believes that the conference would benefit from representation from consultants working in the independent sector. The purpose of the Conference is

to bring consultants together from across the UK to debate motions, share experiences and set priorities for the consultants committee for coming year.
You can to send an observer to this year's conference. As an observer your representative will receive a copy of the agenda and papers for the conference, be given refreshments and lunch on the day and, subject to agreement by conference, be able to participate in the debates. Unfortunately the BMA would not be able to meet your representative's travel expenses.
http://www.bma.org.uk/whats_on/branch_practice_conferences/consultantsconference09.jsp

Investing in Medical Tourism - Opportunities, risks and developments
16th June 2009 – Central London
This conference examines the opportunities and challenges for investors as the health industry evolves from locally delivered services to global choice in care provision.
http://www.healthinvestor.co.uk/HIConference16thJune2009.aspx

Avma – The Annual Clinical Negligence Conference 2009
19-20 June 2009, Bournemouth International Centre
It is established as the essential annual forum for those involved in clinical negligence and medical law, attracting leading figures from the medico-legal world, over 450 delegates and a variety of exhibitors.
http://www.avma.org.uk/pages/annual_clinical_negligence_conference_2009.html

IOSH accredited Managing Safely for healthcare managers

(4-day fast-track course leading to recognised qualification)
For managers with responsibility for managing and implementing effective risk and safety management in a healthcare organisation, or anybody who needs to understand what is required to manage safely.
June 2009. http://www.lpdg.co.uk/images/iosh-course-detail-MS.pdf

Investing in Healthcare Annual Conference 2009 - Why is healthcare a good recession investment? 24th June 2009 – Central London
This conference explores how the case for investment has changed in healthcare property, services and supplies. It identifies why the market remains so attractive, as well as discussing the yields on offer and the scale of the opportunities available. Industry leaders will review debt markets, equity markets and the state of the economy, outlining the opportunities and challenges arising from expansions, acquisitions, financing and refinancing.
http://www.healthinvestor.co.uk/InvestinginHealthcare2009.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

Investing in Healthcare in Europe
Laing and Buisson conference third conference on this topic focuses on the services and medical technology sectors. **26 June 2009.**
http://www.laingbuisson.co.uk/ProductsServices/Conferences/ForthcomingConferences/tabid/375/Default.aspx

HealthInvestor annual conference 2009 – Investing in care for older people
Investing with care; opportunities for growth, 30 June 2009 – Central London
This conference asks what are the areas for investment, disinvestment and reinvestment in the care market for older people?
http://www.healthinvestor.co.uk/HIConferenceInvestingInOlderPeople09.aspx

National Obesity Conference: Reversing the Tide of Obesity - Working Together to Create an Active, Healthier Nation. Wednesday 1st July 2009, Central London

The government has set itself the goal of being first major nation to reverse the rising tide of obesity and overweight in the population. For this ambition to be met it is essential that all sectors from the early years, to schools and food, from sport and physical activity to planning, transport and the health service are joint up. This conference will examine how this ambition can become a reality at local and national levels.
http://insidegovernment.co.uk/health/obesity_activity/index.php#agenda

Kings Fund - Sustaining innovations and new technologies for managing long-term conditions, 9 July 2009
This conference forms part of our series of events on long-term conditions. The event will focus on sustaining innovations and new technologies for managing long-term conditions.
http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/learn/conferences_and_seminars/sustaining.html

Navigating the Legal Maze - Health and social care and the law
Thursday 9 July 2009, Hallam Conference Centre, London W1
Focusing on legal issues facing health and social care providers offers a unique opportunity for organisations of all sizes to keep up to date with the ever-evolving agenda.
http://www.laingbuissonconferences.co.uk/documents/NavigatingtheLegalMaze.pdf

Westminster Health Forum Keynote Seminar - The Role of Prevention & Early Diagnosis in Healthcare
David Colin-Thomé, National Director for Primary Care, Department of Health
Morning, Tuesday, 14th July 2009, Central London
http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/dietandhealthforum/bookprevention.html

Quality Time
A national seminar on the role of accreditation in health and social care, this one day seminar, held jointly by the UK Accreditation Forum and the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) Quality Section, will take place on **Tuesday 17 November 2009**, at the RSM. Please contact quality@rsm.ac.uk for booking details.

Coming up in the June 2009 Update…

Please ensure that this 'Update' is widely circulated within your organisations.

- The Complaints Code launch to the Stakeholders
- The meeting with the Minister Ben Bradshaw re Cosmetic Treatment Self Regulation
- Progress with the Hellenic Project
- News from Scotland
- News from Wales
- Dr JJ De Gorter meets Andrew Dillon Chief Executive NICE
- Progress with Revalidation
- Matt Calver reporting on Partnerships for Occupational Safety and Health in Healthcare (POSHH)
- Northern Ireland Revalidation agenda

Sally, Andrew and Lene

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