



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 117 April 2017

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

a. Diary dates

- **24th June 2017: Annual Conference “Patients, Power and Partnerships” in Basingstoke, Hampshire. Deadline for ‘early bird’ rate extended to two more days to May 2nd.** Keynote speeches from Professor Paul Hungin, President of the British Medical Association and Ruth Rankine, Care Quality Commission’s Chief Inspector of General Practice. Further details of the programme and the registration form are [here](#) on the N.A.P.P. website. The event is usually over-subscribed, so make sure you don’t miss out on the opportunity to connect with others from across the UK and be inspired by speakers and a range of workshops.
- **19th – 24th June 2017: PPG Awareness week:** This is the fifth Awareness Week and is taking place later in the month than the usual to coincide with our conference. Download [the Resource Pack](#) from the home page of the N.A.P.P. website.
- **Corkill “PPG of the Year” Award:** Only a few days till 30th April closing date!

- ### b. Relationships between PPGs and local Healthwatch” Survey:
- Thanks to those – over 300 - who have participated in this online survey which we sent to early April to our member groups. **There are just five questions.** If no-one from your PPG has yet done so, we would appreciate you completing it - on behalf of your PPG - by **Friday 26th May 2017**. Access it at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NAPP-Healthwatch>

2. Participation and patient involving patients: new statutory guidance for CCGs and NHS England

NHS England have issued this [guidance](#) on participation and involving patients in their own care. The document outlines a strong legislative 'push' towards patient participation. It explicitly states that "CCGs and NHS England should draw on the expertise and experience of Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) which all GP practices must have. The National Association of Patient Participation (N.A.P.P.) has produced a set of top tips for engagement with PPGs". It links to NAPP's 'Top Tips' (p24) on our own website. It aligns closely with N.A.P.P.'s values and vision.

3. How healthcare is funded

How health care is funded varies between different countries. A King’s Fund [briefing](#) explains the main models used to finance health care: taxation, private health insurance and social health insurance. It shows how each model works in its purest form, while recognising that most countries typically pay for health care using a combination of methods. The King’s Fund is an English health charity that shapes health and social care policy and practice.

4. More CCGs take on delated commissioning for primary care services

CCGs, formed in 2013, took over from Primary Care Trusts (PCTS) responsibility for the planning and commissioning (purchasing) of secondary health care services which GPs could access in their local area. In April 2015, new legislation enabled CCGs to take on delegated commissioning arrangements for primary medical services. On 1 April 2017, a further 62 CCGs took forward delegated commissioning arrangements for primary medical services. This brings the total number of CCGs with full delegation to 176, representing 84% of CCGs. A [list of CCGs](#) with delegated responsibilities can be found on the NHS England website

5. NHS England to issue new guidance on low-value prescription items

To find savings of up to £400m a year in low-value prescription items, such as pain-killers, available over the counter, often at lower cost, NHS England has commissioned a [review](#) accompanied by new guidance for CCGs. Initial focus is on 10 medicines that are ineffective, unnecessary or otherwise inappropriate for NHS prescription, costing the NHS £128m per year. Following consultation, a national approach will be set out to be adopted by individual CCGs across England. The review seeks to address growing concern over the justification for low value prescriptions which absorb millions of NHS funding every year, that could be spent on care which has a bigger impact on improving outcomes for patients.

6. Increases in charges for NHS prescription and dentals care from April 2017

The government has announced an increase to the NHS prescription charge of 20 pence, to £8.60 per prescription item. This [change](#) will come into effect from 1 April 2017.

7. Self-Care Briefing

A paper from Regional Voices highlights the need to support patients to manage their own health better. It says there should also be more recognition of the potential for voluntary and community services to enable self-care. The [discussion paper](#) uses case studies to demonstrate the benefits of promoting self-care approaches.

8. Sustainability and Transformation plans – a different angle

STPs are five year plans for the future of health and care services in local areas. Last month's bulletin included a report from the Reform think tank identifying barriers to successful implementation of STPs and ways to overcome them. A number of further [reports and briefings](#) have been produced by the Kings Fund.

9. Patient Experience of Primary Care: GP Survey data

The National Institute for Healthcare Research has just published a new Highlight of NIHR research into the GP patient survey data. Practice teams and their patients can see the data online and compare their practice's performance with others locally and with the national average. This Highlight discusses the insights that a linked set of research studies have given into the general practice survey data, what was learned when the researchers took a closer look at patients' experience at the GPs, and the importance of acting upon patient feedback. Read more [here](#).

10. Health and Wellbeing in rural areas.

A [report](#) by the Local Government Association and Public Health England highlights the challenges for health and care provision in rural communities. It includes case studies showcasing the ways in which local authorities in England are tackling health inequalities, improving access to services and building up community resilience.

11. 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.

12. 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,
April 2017*