



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 124: December 2017

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

1. **N.A.P.P.'s group of 100:** This is a group of up to 100 PPG representatives who are committed to give a quick response (usually between 5 and 10 days) to targeted questions, usually electronically. We have not quite reached the target of 100 members. Information is [here](#) on the N.A.P.P. website where you can complete and send the Membership Agreement form to paul.devlin@napp.org.uk
2. **Regional Winter Networking Event: Continuity of Care:** On December 2nd Over 50 delegates from N.A.P.P. member PPGs, from an area bounded by the M25, attended a half-day meeting at the General Medical Council's London office, the first event we have held in London since 2004. There were three informative presentations, which can be viewed [here](#), representing the views of N.A.P.P., a London GP and the GMC from, all of which generated many questions and discussion. We hope to provide similar networking opportunities in other areas in the future.
- b. **2017 Annual Conference videos and presentations:** Whether or not you attended our 2017 Annual Conference, do take advantage of the opportunity to view the videos of excellent keynote speeches and presentations [here](#)
- d. **Diary dates**
 - **9th June 2018:** N.A.P.P. Annual Conference 2018 in Nottingham.
 - **4th - 9th June:** PPG Awareness Week

2. Prescription curbs: 18 medicines no longer funded by NHS

In September and October, 464 PPGs and their members participated in an NHS consultation by completing an online survey on proposals to reduce prescribing of some low value items. Read the results of this consultation [here](#). NHS England has now published national guidance on 18 medicines including fish oil, herbal remedies and homeopathy which should no longer be routinely prescribed on the NHS primary care. It aims to ensure people receive the safest and most effective treatment available, and save the NHS up to £141 million a year. See [further information and the full list of products](#) There will be further consultation on curbs to prescriptions for other over the counter products such as paracetamol.



3. New rules on blood donations: more people will be able to give blood

[Changes](#) to the rules on blood donation in England, were announced in July, on the recommendation of the advisory committee on the safety of blood, tissues and organs (SaBTO), following a scientific review. These came into force on 28 November. The new rules will allow more people to donate blood, without affecting the safety of the blood supply.

4. Over 60s: Don't miss out on bowel screening

Embarrassment about providing a stool sample is putting thousands at risk of dying from bowel cancer, according to Public Health England. All men and women over 60 should be tested, PHE says, but as many as 40% are ignoring the advice. Although more people than ever are being screened, take up of bowel cancer screening lags behind breast and cervical cancer screening services, which are used by around three-quarters of women. [More...](#)

5. GP surgeries should remove earwax if it is causing hearing loss problems

In recent years, patients have expressed concern about general practices no longer removing earwax. New draft [guidance](#) has been issued by NICE, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, that GP surgeries or community clinics should offer to remove earwax if a build-up is contributing to someone's hearing loss. . Patients should be given ear drops to soften the wax which can be removed using an electronic machine that pumps water into the ear at a controlled pressure, known as ear irrigation. This means patients do not need to be referred to a specialist ear, nose and throat (ENT) service for the procedure.

6. The 15 Steps Challenge

The 15 Steps Challenge focuses on seeing care through a patient or carer's eyes, and exploring their first impressions. Originally developed by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, the suite of [toolkits](#) have been refreshed and updated and a new guide for commissioners added.

7. N.A.P.P. website: Don't miss out this useful benefit of belonging to N.A.P.P.!

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

8. 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, December 2017