



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 109 July / August 2016

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

- a. **The Annual Conference “Transforming Services Together:** If you missed this lively and thought-provoking event, you can view footage of all keynote speeches, panel questions, Soap Box contributions, Corkill Award winners, final summing up, and “Vox Pop” interviews with delegates [here](#) Just keep scrolling down the page and choose what to see and hear. Power Point slides from keynote speeches and some workshops are also available in the member pages of the Conference pages from the same link.
- b. **PPG Awareness Week:** Several PPGs have sent interesting reports and examples of their activities in general. We would like to hear from more of you. What worked well for you? We want to share all your good ideas with everyone else and to provide and enhanced resource pack and support for next year.

2. RCGP “Put Patients First” Campaign update

The Put Patients First Campaign team is trying to ensure that the promises the government has made for general practice stay at the top of the political agenda. You can help by writing to your MP to tell them about the GP Forward View and get them to contact the Prime Minister about the issue. It'll only take 5 minutes to do using the [online tool](#) which automatically finds your MP. Join the hundreds of people who have already taken action and take part now.

3. Top tips for increasing uptake of Health Checks

The NHS Health Check aims to prevent heart disease, kidney disease, stroke and diabetes in people aged 40 to 74. The programme is a key priority for Public Health England (PHE) and local authorities in their efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent premature mortality. Nationally only about 50% of people invited for a check take up the offer. PHE has published a collection of [tips](#) outlining approaches that have worked well in different parts of the country. These are intended for practice staff, but PPGs could publicise the benefits to patients of accepting invitations from practices.

4. Online access to detailed GP records

[Official figures](#) suggest that over 95% of GP practices are now set up to offer including test results and diagnoses as well as referrals, immunisations, procedures and medications history. This is up from just 3% of practices in January this year. Patients in England will be able to view test results as they come in and keep track of their glucose levels and cholesterol on their smart phones, enabling them to take greater control of their care and better manage their health. However, PPGs may find that there is variation between practices and even between GPs within practices in terms of offering this opportunity to patients who may benefit.

5. Training vulnerable people to use internet may improve health and wellbeing

In the Widening Digital Participation programme, run by NHS England and Tinder Foundation, vulnerable people were trained to use the internet. This resulted in over half (59%) feeling more confident to use online tools to manage their health, 21% making fewer calls or visits to their GP and 6% making fewer trips to A&E. 65% felt more informed and 52% felt less lonely with 62% saying they feel happier as a result of social contact, an important indicator for overall well being. [More](#) This behaviour change is estimated to have saved the NHS £6 million in avoided GP and A&E visits in just 12 months.

6. Is bigger better? Lessons for Large Scale general practice

Traditional general practice is changing. This study by the Nuffield Trust shows that three quarters of English practices have now joined large-scale GP organisations, formed to help cope with rising pressure and policies demanding longer hours and new services. Policy-makers and practitioners have high hopes for these organisations and their potential to transform services both within primary care and beyond. But can we be confident that they can live up to these expectations? It finds these organisations can help to sustain general practice in the face of intense financial pressure and shortages of doctors and nurses. However, they have so far made limited progress in expanding into new services, and taking on a strategic role in redesigning care. [More....](#)

7. New Guide to Annual Reporting on Patient and the Public Participation

This [guide](#) has been produced for Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England, setting out the organisations' responsibilities to report annually on how they meet their legal duties to involve patients and the public in their work. There is significant variation between CCGs in the methods and levels of engagement of patients and with the public. This document is about annual reporting, but it does clarify what is expected of CCGs and other bodies such as Healthwatch in terms of involving patients and includes examples of good practice.

8. GP Patient Survey 2016: patients increasingly positive about GP surgeries

As the NHS treats more patients than ever before, latest data shows that 85% rate their overall experience of their GP surgery as good. More than 800,000 people across the country completed the [GP patient survey 2016](#) on various aspects of GP care, including access to GP surgeries, making appointments, the quality of care received from GPs and practice nurses, satisfaction with opening hours and out-of-hours NHS services.

9. Think kidneys awareness programme

Despite being critical for life, around half of us don't know what our kidneys do, where they are in our bodies, why we need them, how to keep them healthy and what happens when they go wrong. To address this, the NHS Think Kidneys programme has been running a national campaign this summer to raise awareness among the general public, particularly aiming it at those people at greater risk. Kidney disease causes suffering and changes lives and can often be avoided if diagnosed early. Think Kidneys is a national partnership between NHS England, NHS Improvement and the UK Renal Registry. Information about the programme can be found at www.thinkkidneys.nhs.uk. Or simply download and watch this excellent [short film](#).

10. New bowel cancer home screening test

Following a successful [pilot](#) involving 40,000 people, a new bowel cancer home testing kit will now be offered every two years to all men and women in England aged 60 to 74. The kit tests for hidden blood in stool samples, which can be an early sign of bowel cancer.

11. Diary Dates

Self Care Week 14th -20th November:

Details and resources [here](#)

Self Care conference 26th September London:

More details [here](#).

12. Get your N.A.P.P. member password now! The Members' pages of N.A.P.P.'s website contain **key resources available only to affiliated PPGs and CCGs**. To get your PPG's login details, **visit the website, click on Members and use the screen instructions**. We recommend each PPG to have a group email address as the username for the login.

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

Edith Todd, Trustee,

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