



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 96: May 2015

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

a. PPG Awareness Week 2015: June 1st – 6th

This is your opportunity to tell your local communities about PPGs, so do use the templates in the Awareness Week pages at www.napp.org.uk to compose press releases for local press and radio. The dates coincide with Volunteers' Week (see below) so it is the perfect opportunity to highlight the health benefits of volunteering in general and of the PPG in particular. Within the practice, we hope you will be as visible as possible, talking to patients, distributing leaflets, explaining what the PPG has achieved, running health promotion or self care events, recruiting new members, and publicising **your** PPG. Please email innovative activities which work well for your PPG to admin@napp.org.uk

b. Self Care Forum Fact Sheets and resources: Do make use of the [Forum's website](#) to download posters, 14 fact sheets about minor ailments, links to the NHS Symptom Checker, all of which could be very useful in supporting health promotion activities.

c. N.A.P.P. Annual Conference 'Really Putting Patients First: Final programme on the N.A.P.P. website. Contact admin@napp.org.uk about availability.

d. Corkill Award PPG of the Year 2015: This year's entries are of a high standard. Results will be announced by May 25th.

2. Volunteers' and Carers' Weeks in June

a. Links for further information about [Volunteers' Week](#) 1st – 7th June, supported by the National Council for Voluntary Service in partnership with counterparts) in [Wales](#), (WCVA), Northern Ireland ([Volunteer Now](#)) and Scotland [Volunteer Scotland](#)

b. The following week 8th -14th June is [Carers' Week](#), the annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight and recognise the challenges carers face and the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK.

3. Significant increase in number of carers over 85

A new analysis by Carers UK and Age UK shows the number of carers aged 85 and over in England has risen by 128% in 10 years to over 87,000. Figures in the [report](#) also show that 55% of these over 85s are caring for 50 or more hours each week.

8. RCGP report: Patients shouldn't have to choose between easier access and continuity of care

Following the success of the first phase of the RCGP campaign to "Put patients first: Back General Practice" with the substantial increase in funding promised in the Autumn Statement, the Royal College of General Practitioners says that reducing waiting times for a GP appointment should be a priority the incoming government, but not at the expense of continuity of care. In a [report](#) entitled "Patient access to general practice: ideas and challenges from the front line" setting out a range of initiatives, the RCGP says that investment in GP services and training of more GPs must remain priorities.

Recent analysis by the RCGP showing that on an estimated 67m occasions in 2015, patients in England will have to wait for a week or more to see a GP or practice nurse, due to a lack of investment in general practice and rapidly growing demand.

4. New report: Only patients can close the NHS funding gap

This was the main message at a recent “Working with patients and communities” conference. With commissioners spending most of their energy and the lion’s share of their programme budgets to providing services to address ill health, only a fraction of NHS spending goes on helping people to stay well, supporting people to manage their own conditions and tackling the issues that determine health, all of which depend on engaging patients and the public as partners in the consulting room, in the planning and delivery of services and in healthy behaviour that will reduce their need for services. Read a [synopsis](#) .

5. Facts, figures and views on health and social care

In the run up to the general election, the Nuffield Trust published [facts and figures about health and social care](#). The Trust is an independent and authoritative source of evidence-based research and policy analysis for improving health care in the UK, to help provide objective research and analysis to boost the quality of health policy and practice, and ultimately to improve the health and health care of people in the UK.

6. Hidden Citizens: How can we identify the most lonely older adults?

The Campaign to End Loneliness warns that loneliness and isolation are as harmful to our long-term health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. People experiencing severe loneliness visit their GP more often, and enter residential care earlier. The Hidden Citizens [report](#) is based on research conducted with the University of Kent, exploring

- what was already known in both research and practice about identifying people experiencing loneliness
- current approaches to identifying loneliness
- insights into how services can improve their outreach and support.

7. Quality of care or distance to travel: Do patients choose hospitals that improve their health?

This question addressed in this [paper](#) tests whether hip replacement patients in England are more likely to attend a hospital that achieves larger improvements in their patients’ health. Patients in the English NHS can choose which hospital to attend for planned surgery. Among other considerations, they need information about the quality of care provided by each hospital. But existing information on hospital quality has often been limited, focusing only on the negative experience of patients, e.g. how many patients died after surgery or were readmitted for unplanned care. NHS England has recently begun publishing information to give patients with better access on improvements in health as reported by patients themselves. However, patients’ reaction to quality information is generally limited: **Even for large changes in quality patients would only be willing to travel few kilometres more.**

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

The Members’ pages of the N.A.P.P. website contain **key resources available only to affiliated PPGs and CCGs**. For your PPG’s unique login details for use by all the members of your PPG, (but not to be divulged to others), **visit the website, click on Members and use the screen instructions**. The response will come from server@serifwebresources.com We recommend each PPG have a group email address to be 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 bulletins are at <http://www.napp.org.uk/ebulletins.html>

Edith Todd,

Trustee,

May 2015