All-Party Parliamentary Health Group

Daily Media Bulletin - Tuesday 19th July

Daily health from across the national and trade press from the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group

Brexit: what does it mean for health and social care in the UK?

Message from Rt. Hon. Sir Kevin Barron MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Health Group

So what does 'Brexit' mean for health care in the UK? The health implications are potentially many, not least of all, what happens to the health professionals from the EU who are already living and working in the UK? After the Brexit vote, the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, who reprises his role in the new Government, expressed confidence that EU staff in the NHS would be able to remain in the UK following the vote, praising the contribution of the 110,000 EU nationals working in the health and social care system. Indeed, with staff shortages across the health service, the NHS would be hard-pressed to do without these much-valued EU health staff.

But many other questions remain. What will happen to the regulation of medical devices, as the technical standards for medical devices are currently determined by a EU Directive? And what will happen to the European Medicines Agency, currently located in Canary Wharf in London? It seems likely that it will be relocated to mainland Europe - other EU Members States have already expressed an interest in hosting the Agency - but how will medicines regulation in the UK be affected - if at all? Also, will the provisions of European Working Time Directive, offering working hours protection to NHS staff, have to be renegotiated now?

So much depends on the outcome of the Brexit negotiations - for example, on whether other EU countries will be able to bid for NHS service provider contracts and how the UK will fare in the future on international cooperation in research and innovation in medicine. It is so important that we continue to share data and expertise across Europe in order to continue to improve the health and lives of all UK citizens.

While it is partly going to be a case of ‘wait and see’, it is also potentially a time of opportunity, for the health technology sector for example. I look forward to working with my fellow Officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group and the APHG Secretariat, on informing parliamentarians about what Brexit means for NHS health and care services. Nothing could be more important.

Rt. Hon. Sir Kevin Barron MP
Today's Top Stories

Health budget rise 'less than was promised'
The Health Select Committee have said that ministers in England have given the wrong impression about how much extra they are spending on health. The Government said it would spend an extra £8.4bn on top of inflation on the NHS in this parliament, when it unveiled its spending plans last year, but the Select Committee said the true figure was about £4.5bn.

NHS England’s Chief Executive sets out blueprint for 'bold and broad reforms'
The Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens, has set out a “radical blueprint” for NHS reform with a new Prime Minister in Downing Street. Simon Stevens has recommended tackling health inequalities, overhauling the way people access their healthcare and improving the service’s infrastructure, as well as changing the way social care is funded, as areas to focus on now.

Seven-day NHS unachievable for 20 years and expert claims
Professor Julian Bion, the leader of a major NHS-funded research project into the introduction of more services at weekends, has claimed that the Government’s pledge to deliver a seven-day NHS will not be achievable for 20 years because of underfunding and chronic understaffing. There are also fears that providing more NHS services at weekends could increase the risk of patient deaths in hospital during the week, because fewer doctors might be on duty then.

South East Coast ambulance service told to fix safety issues
The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has warned South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (Secamb), over its operations, including NHS 111 calls, employment and deployment of staff, and management of medicines. The CQC has told the Trust to put matters right by 10 September.

Thousands of student nurses are cheating their way through training, universities have revealed
Thousands of student nurses have been caught cheating amid what experts fear is a hidden wave of plagiarism with potentially lethal consequences for patients. More than 1,700 nursing students have been disciplined by their universities over the last three academic years, Freedom of Information documents reveal.

Larger GP practices lead to lower patient satisfaction, finds a new report
Case studies carried out by The Nuffield Trust, in collaboration with the RCGP, have found that large-scale general practice doesn’t improve the quality of care, and actually leads to a deterioration in patient satisfaction.
**Other Health News**

**Fracking linked to asthma flare-ups**
According to research published in the Journal JAMA, the controversial method for mining natural gas known as fracking might potentially trigger asthma flare-ups.  
BBC

**Over-75s 'perpetrators of NHS assaults'**
According to NHS Protect, patients over the age of 75 are responsible for more than half of physical assaults on NHS staff in hospitals across England. Stress and confusion over a hospital stay may explain the findings.  
BBC

**Acid victim Samir Hussain 'relives attack every day'**
A man left badly scarred when acid was thrown in his face has said he relives the attack 15 or 20 times every day. The victim, Samir Hussain, is backing calls for controls on the sale of corrosive substances.  
BBC

**Ban diesel cars in London, a think tank urges**
According to the Institute for Public Policy Research, diesel vehicles must be banned from London if the UK is to meet its air pollution targets. Cars, vans and buses using diesel fuel are the leading cause of air pollution in the capital, and although steps are being taken to discourage their use, through the congestion charge and clean air zones, the number of diesel vehicles in use has increased in recent years.  
Guardian

**Give vapers their own rooms and more breaks, bosses told**
E-cigarette users should be allowed extra breaks and the use of “vaping” rooms at work so they do not have to mingle with tobacco smokers, Public Health England has said. PHE have issued new official advice for employers to make vaping the “more convenient option” in the hope of persuading more people to give up tobacco.  
Times

**GPs to get funding to boost health checks in people with serious mental illness**
GP practices are to be offered funding to carry out health checks in people with severe mental illness (SMI), under plans for a new enhanced service aimed at cutting premature mortality in this group of patients. The move is one of a raft of measures laid out by NHS England today on how it plans to implement the Mental Health Taskforce report.  
Pulse

**London Mayor calls for ‘immediate halt’ to removal of bursaries**
The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has called for “an immediate halt” to Government plans to replace healthcare student bursaries with loans, saying the move would hit nurse recruitment and healthcare services in the capital.  
Nursing Times
Confusion over drugs administration leads to new guidance
Nursing home managers have been questioned by inspectors about care assistants administering medication even though this is perfectly legal. New guidance, developed by the University of Leeds for the Department of Health, makes it clear that care assistants can give medication with the right training and assessment.
Nursing Times

A Netherlands nurse-led community model is to be tested in UK
A community nurse-led care model that sees management functions shared between staff and ensures at least 60% of nursing time spent is with patients, is being tested in the UK, following the success of the model in the Netherlands, Nursing Times has learnt.
Nursing Times

NHS needs culture shift regarding sleeping at work
The NHS needs a sizeable shift in its attitude to doctors sleeping during night shifts, Michael Farquhar, a paediatric consultant sleep specialist, has told BMJ Careers. Mr Farquhar said, “There is still this idea that if you are being paid you must not sleep, and that is fundamentally wrong”.
BMJ

Workforce gaps are result of reorganisations and “quick fixes,” says the Health Foundation
The NHS workforce in England has swung from boom to bust because of repeated reorganisations and a reliance on “quick fixes” to solve deep systemic problems, the independent health care thinkthank, The Health Foundation, has said.
BMJ

International News

Living hip' grown in lab genetically engineered to stop arthritis
Researchers in the US have used stem cells to grow cartilage in the exact shape of a hip joint while also genetically engineering the tissue to release anti-inflammatory molecules to fend off the return of arthritis.
Telegraph Times

Unusual US Zika virus case baffles experts
Experts are trying to work out exactly how a US carer has caught Zika after tending to a dying elderly man with the virus. Until now it was thought that only mosquitoes and sexual transmission spread the Zika virus, as well as the risk of mother-to-child transmission in the womb. The carer, from Utah, did not have any of these known risk factors.
BBC

Smart' stitches can send out infection alerts to save patients
A team at Tufts University in Massachusetts have developed smart” stitching that is able to diagnose infections and then communicate the information to clinicians in real time via mobile phones. As well as collecting data on toxicity, the thread can analyse tissue strength and detect how well a wound is healing.
Telegraph
African American men living in poverty face highest mortality risk, study says

According to a study by the US National Institute on Aging which examined race, gender and socioeconomic status, African American men who live in poverty have the greatest mortality risk. The study found that African American men living below 125% of the US Federal poverty guidelines had a 2.66-times higher risk of mortality compared with African American men living above it. White men who lived below the poverty level had approximately the same risk as white men above.

Guardian

APHG Health and Employment Event - full transcript now available

The transcript of the APHG’s joint event with the Employment Related Services Association (ERSA), The Vital Link between Employment and Good Health: keeping people with health problems in work and getting them back into the workforce, is now available on our website. You can find it here.

New APHG blog on The Health Hub

Helen Gilburt, Fellow in Health Policy at The King’s Fund, has written a very informative blog in relation to the APHG’s joint meeting with The King’s Fund on 14th June. The blog is entitled Integrating physical and mental health – moving the agenda on from parity to equity. It can be found on our website here.

Contact details for the APHG:

Judith Abel, Manager All-Party Parliamentary Health Group
Tel: 020 7202 8580
judith.abel@healthinparliament.org.uk

Ryan Duncanson, Health Intern, Health and Energy Safety
Tel: 020 7202 8577
Ryan.Duncanson@PolicyConnect.org.uk

Follow @HealthAPPG

Copyright © 2016 All Party Parliamentary Health Group, All rights reserved.

unsubscribe from this list