Daily health news from the APHG

All-Party Parliamentary Health Group

Daily Media Bulletin - Friday 22nd July - including a round-up of yesterday's health news

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

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.

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.

Today's Top Stories

Double hand transplant: UK's first operation a 'tremendous' success
The UK's first double hand transplant operation has taken place at Leeds General Infirmary and the patient says his new hands look "tremendous". Chris King, from Doncaster, lost both his hands, apart from the thumbs, in an accident involving a metal pressing machine at work three years ago. He received two new hands from a donor and says he already has some movement in them. BBC Guardian Independent Times

Stop making excuses on delays, NHS leaders are told by Public Accounts Committee
NHS leaders in England have been accused by MPs of not being tough enough in tackling delays in discharging medically fit patients from hospital. Parliament's
Public Accounts Committee said NHS England must do more to support hospitals in this area. Studies have found that older people can lose up to five per cent of their muscle strength each day they stay in hospital, while research conducted in May estimated that approximately 6,000 patients are inappropriately stuck in hospital in England each day.

BBC Telegraph Times

Hospitals 'given green light' to miss waiting time targets
More than 50 hospitals in England have been given the green light to miss key waiting time targets this year to help ease their financial problems. The move is part of a package of measures taken by NHS leaders after hospitals exceeded their budgets by a record amount last year. Fines for missing targets in A&E, cancer and routine operations have been scrapped altogether.

BBC Guardian Times Pulse

Vitamin D supplements 'advised for everyone'
A report commissioned by the Government from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) has set the recommended levels of vitamin D at 10 micrograms a day. The report suggests that everyone should consider taking vitamin D supplements in autumn and winter.

BBC Guardian Pulse

Alcohol is a direct cause of seven forms of cancer, finds study
According to research published in the scientific journal *Addiction*, alcohol causes seven forms of cancer, and people consuming even low to moderate amounts are at risk. The study sparked renewed calls for regular drinkers to be encouraged to take alcohol-free days, and for alcohol packaging to carry warning labels.

Guardian Independent Telegraph

'Survival of the nastiest': new approach seeks to stop drug-resistant cancer evolving
A revolutionary approach to tackling cancer that targets the way tumours evolve and become resistant to drugs is to be tested for the first time in the world in the UK. Scientists hope to identify the escape routes cancers use to evade therapy and target them with pioneering "anti-evolution" drugs. The aim is to focus directly on the way natural selection produces aggressive cancers that no longer respond to treatment by favouring the "survival of the nastiest".

Telegraph Times BMJ

Live like an Italian to combat major health problems, say experts
Doctors should prescribe nuts, olive oil and vegetables instead of statins or beta-blockers and encourage patients to live like an Italian to combat major health problems, experts have said. In a new film entitled 'The Big Fat Fix' British cardiologist Aseem Malhotra calls for a health revolution which moves away from drugs towards 'lifestyle medicine.'

Telegraph Pulse

Cure for asthma is on horizon as scientists find genetic cause
A cure for asthma is on the horizon after scientists discovered a genetic switch which prevents the condition. The research carried out at the University of Southampton, discovered that the gene ADAM33 plays a crucial role in causing the twitchiness and inflammation of airways that triggers an attack.

Telegraph Independent
Other Health News

England NHS multimillion-pound contract consultants axed
An "award winning" team of business consultants linked to a series of failed multimillion-pound NHS deals is to be scrapped. The Strategic Projects Team, which boasts of delivering "over £6bn of major projects," was set up to deliver the first franchise-run NHS Hospital. NHS England has now raised "real concerns" about its work, saying the unit will be closed down.
BBC

UK growth not being converted to increased wellbeing, says report
The UK is losing ground to Germany and other countries when it comes to using economic growth to improve the wellbeing of its citizens, according to a report. The sustainable economic development assessment (Seda) by the Boston Consulting Group measures the wellbeing of citizens across 160 countries. Using measures other than just GDP, such as employment rates, economic stability, income equality and environment, it gives countries an overall score and a recent progress score, and compares their ability to convert wealth and growth into wellbeing.
Guardian

Early test for Alzheimer’s offers hope to millions
People who develop mild memory problems in middle age will be able to find out whether they are likely to have Alzheimer’s disease by taking a powerful new gene test. The early diagnosis would allow doctors to prescribe patients drugs and brain exercises to slow the onset of the condition before it is too late.
Times

Deaths at UK immigration detention centres are the result of avoidable systemic failures, report says
High numbers of avoidable deaths have continued to occur within UK immigration detention centres because the Home Office and NHS England have not tackled systemic failings in healthcare provision, a report has said. The report by Medical Justice, an organisation that campaigns for health rights for detainees, included an extensive assessment of the 38 deaths in immigration detention centres in the UK that were reported between 2000 and 2015, concluding that some of these deaths were avoidable.
BMJ

Locum shortage forces trust to close hospital unit
Difficulties in recruiting locum doctors has led to Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust temporarily closing its ambulatory care unit at Dewsbury Hospital.
HSJ

General practice’s share of health spending falls again
General practice’s share of the total Department of Health budget fell by 1.2 percentage points in 2015-16, the Department’s accounts suggest. The accounts show spending on GP services was £7.8bn – 5 per cent of total expenditure.
HSJ

Junior health ministers’ responsibilities laid out
Recently appointed junior Health Ministers, Philip Dunne, Nicola Blackwood, and
David Mowat have been assigned their responsibilities within the newly formed Department of Health team. Mr Dunne, Minister of State for Health, will oversee hospital care, NHS performance and operations, the workforce, patient safety and maternity care, while Ms Blackwood has been named Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation. Mr Mowat’s brief - as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Community Health and Care - will include adult social care, carers, community services, cancer, dementia, learning disabilities and primary care.

**Nursing Times**

**GPC passes vote of no confidence in Capita after 'months of failures'**
The General Practitioners Committee has passed a motion of no confidence in Capita for the delivery of its primary care support services following a series of failures, which it claims are putting patients at risk. The committee passed the motion at its meeting yesterday, referencing ‘months of concerns’ around ‘failures in patient record transfer, delivery of supplies and payment problems’.

**Pulse**

**International News**

**Advanced Medical Institute’s appeal on sexual dysfunction treatment dismissed**
The Advanced Medical Institute aggressively promoted and supplied medical services and unproven medications for men suffering from sexual dysfunction, and falsely led men to believe they might suffer heart attacks or strokes if they did not buy the treatments, Australia’s federal court has found.

**Guardian**

**Menopause reversed in clinical trials in Greece**
Scientists in Greece have announced they can now reverse the menopause in what is thought to be a major scientific breakthrough. In clinical trials, the scientists were able to ‘rejuvenate’ women’s ovaries using a blood treatment normally used to help wounds heal faster. The research, undertaken by scientists in Athens, has been presented at the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology’s annual meeting in Finland.

**Independent**

**Fears grow that a home-grown Zika virus may have reached the US as second case is investigated in Florida**
The second case of Zika virus possibly acquired locally, is being investigated in Florida, just days after the first potential case was announced in Miami, officials said on Thursday. Until now, there have been hundreds of cases of the Zika virus in Florida, but all involved people who were infected while travelling to areas where the mosquito-borne virus is spreading.

**Telegraph**

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