Daily health news from the APHG

All-Party Parliamentary Health Group

Daily Media Bulletin - Monday 25th July - including a round-up of the weekends 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 following 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

Prince Harry’s regret at not speaking about mother’s death
Prince Harry has spoken of his regret about not speaking out earlier about the death of his mother, Princess Diana, in a car crash in Paris 19 years ago. His admission was made during a conversation about bereavement with the former England footballer Rio Ferdinand at an event for the mental health charity, Heads Together.
Times Guardian BBC

Demanding job? It might help you fight off Alzheimer’s
According to research published at the international conference of the Alzheimer’s Association in Toronto, people whose jobs combine complex thinking with social engagement with others – such as social workers and engineers – are better
protected against the onset of Alzheimer’s, compared to those in manual work.

Telegraph Times

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**Other Health News**

**Arthritis patients experience referral delays, new audit finds**
According to an audit by the British Society for Rheumatology, only 20% of patients who see a GP with suspected inflammatory arthritis are referred to a specialist within the target three days. The report, based on data from 5,000 patients in England and Wales, said awareness of the early symptoms of the condition must improve. However, most patients said they were happy with the care they received.

BBC

**Police and charities launch anti-FGM campaign at Manchester airport**
At 3am on Thursday morning, a group of police, border officers and charity workers joined the throng of holidaymakers at Manchester airport of to begin their summer campaign against female genital mutilation (FGM). The school summer holidays are the most common time for girls in the UK to be taken abroad, usually to their family’s country of origin, and subjected to FGM.

Guardian

**Encouraging depressed people to do the things they enjoy could save NHS thousands, study finds**
Encouraging depressed people to do the things they used to enjoy such as phoning friends or going for a walk, could save NHS trusts thousands of pounds in more complex therapies, a study from the University of Exeter has shown. ‘Behavioural Activation’ is a simple form of therapy which encourages positive activities, such as waking up early, getting outdoors and re-engaging with the world, while stopping negative behaviours such as staying in bed all day, drinking too much or taking drugs.

Telegraph

**Scientists make 'ground-breaking' breast cancer genes discovery**
Research into oestrogen receptors may be the key to explaining why some forms of breast cancer do not respond to treatment, according to two new studies presented at the UK Breast Cancer Research Symposium. The two studies have been heralded as 'ground-breaking' by charity Breast Cancer Now.

Independent

**Legal claims ‘will cost NHS extra £2.5 billion’**
The Government will have to allocate an extra £2.5 billion to meet the cost of legal claims against the National Health Service, new figures suggest. Growing levels of compensation and rising legal bills have fuelled the increase, according to the NHS Litigation Authority, which handles claims against hospitals and medical staff.

Times

**No increase in GP retirements, official figures reveal**
GPs do not appear to be retiring in ever-increasing numbers - despite growing
concerns about working conditions and detrimental changes to pensions.

**RCGP launches perinatal mental health toolkit for GPs**
The Royal College of General Practitioners has launched a resource hub for GPs to help them advise patients struggling with perinatal mental health conditions. It said GPs sometimes struggle to advise mothers-to-be on mental health issues as the women are worried to speak up due to the fear of stigma, or even of having their baby taken away from them.

**Bias a factor in BME medical graduates' lower pass rates, says GMC**
Unconscious bias is a potential factor behind the lagging pass rates of black and ethnic minority UK medical graduates in specialty exams, according to a GMC report. The regulator’s annual report on the progression of doctors in training found that while white UK medical graduates have an average pass rate of 75.8%, this drops to just 63.2% among black and ethnic minority graduates who are also from the UK.

**Nurse retention ‘far greater challenge’ than recruiting trainees**
Retention of nurses and other healthcare staff is a “far greater challenge” for the NHS than recruiting enough students for undergraduate training, a peer has warned during a debate on staffing. Speaking last week on the impact of Brexit on staffing in the NHS and social care services, Baroness Mary Watkins and other peers outlined a range of ongoing problems with nurse recruitment and retention which they warned could worsen following the UK’s decision to leave the EU.

**Workforce cuts to deal with NHS finance gap ‘will face stiff resistance’**
Measures announced this week by the regulator NHS Improvement to bring the health service’s spending under control must not lead to cuts to the nursing workforce, unions have warned.

**Cancer research must focus on how cancer cells evolve, new UK cancer strategy argues**
Understanding how cancer cells evolve in individual patients is key to developing more effective treatment strategies to improve long term survival, the UK Institute of Cancer Research has argued in its research strategy for the next five years.

**Department of Health avoids breaching NHS budget on a “technicality”**
The Department of Health for England came very close to breaching the budget allocated to it by Parliament for 2015-16, show figures released on Friday 21 July. It apparently avoided an overspend by moving funds and not disclosing the receipt of an unexpected £417m (€500m; $550m) in national insurance contributions.

**Variable discharge of older UK patients is “unacceptable,” say MPs**
In a new report by the Public Accounts Committee published at the end of last week, MPs say NHS England must do more to tackle the ongoing delays in discharging older patients from hospital. The report says NHS officials are too readily pointing to the lack of care services run by councils to explain the record...
delays in discharging patients.  

**International News**

**Stem cell trial suggests damaged heart tissue could be regenerated**  
A study published in the Journal of Cardiovascular Translational Research has offered hope to people suffering heart disease. The study suggests that damaged tissue could be regenerated through treatment with stem cells injected into the heart during surgery.  

Guardian

**Chinese scientists to trial revolutionary gene-editing technique on cancer patients**  
A ground-breaking gene-editing technique is to be tested on humans for the first time, with Chinese oncologists trialling the innovation on lung cancer patients. The team from Sichuan University’s West China hospital in Chengdu, China will begin tests in August, the scientific journal Nature reports. Known as Crispr, the technique entails finding, removing and replacing, specific parts of DNA.  

Telegraph

**US investigates first apparent non-sexual person-to-person Zika transmission and first domestic outbreak**  
A man from Utah who cared for an elderly male relative infected with Zika virus has tested positive for the disease, despite not traveling to any known Zika zone. The case has raised new questions about how the disease may spread.  

BMJ

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