All-Party Parliamentary Health Group


Daily health from across the national and trade press from the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group - with a round-up of the weekend's news

Today's Top Stories

Britons under-report calorie intake, study suggests
Britons are under-reporting their daily calorie consumption, potentially misleading policymakers attempting to curb obesity, new research suggests. The Behavioural Insights Team points to scientific and economic data showing people eat, on average, 3,000 calories a day, compared to the 2,000 cited in official surveys. It says this could explain rising obesity levels, despite decades of surveys saying people are eating less.
BBC Times

Asthma pill 'promising' for people with severe symptoms
An experimental pill could help adults with severe asthma, an early study in the journal Lancet Respiratory Medicine suggests. In the small trial, patients who were given the drug, Fevipiprant, had less inflammation in their airways. The charity, Asthma UK, said the research showed "massive promise and should be greeted with cautious optimism".
BBC Independent

National nursing shortage could continue beyond 2020
The shortage of nurses across England will continue beyond the turn of the next decade if provider trusts fail to reduce demand for services, it has emerged. Health Education England’s commitment to close the gap between the demand and supply of adult nurses is based on providers reducing demand, as outlined in the Five Year Forward View.
Nursing Times HSJ

Other Health News
Bowel cancer: almost a third of UK hospitals are not following guidance on testing younger patients

Around 50 hospitals in the UK are failing to provide crucial screening tests for younger people diagnosed with bowel cancer, according to the charity, Bowel Cancer UK. People under the age of 50 who are diagnosed with bowel cancer are not being tested for Lynch syndrome in 29% of hospitals around the country. Lynch syndrome is an inherited disorder and testing for it helps detect those at greater risk of a recurrence of the condition, helping to inform treatment options, and identifying those with family members who may also be at risk of bowel cancer.

British Olympic leaders criticised for Strongbow sponsorship of Team GB

Members of the Alcohol Health Alliance have accused British Olympic leaders of promoting underage drinking following their decision to allow the cider brand Strongbow to sponsor Team GB at the Rio Games. Doctors, public health experts and alcohol groups are warning that Strongbow's high-profile association with the Games could lead teenagers to start drinking, increasing alcohol-related harm.

People with mental health problems can earn up to 42% less

People suffering from mental health problems, such as depression and panic attacks, can earn up to 42% less than their peers. Evidence collected by the Equality and Human Rights Commission has exposed stark differences between the earnings of those suffering from psychological illness and those who are not. According to the Commission, for every pound that a non-disabled man earns, men who have conditions such as phobias or panic attacks earn only 58p. Similarly, men with anxiety or depression are paid only 74p for every pound earned by their contemporaries who do not have such conditions. The EHRC have labelled the pay gap a "disgrace".

Elderly people should sell homes to fund their care, says policy aide to Theresa May

Theresa May's chief policy adviser has suggested that people with valuable homes who face high social care costs in old age, should downsize or re-mortgage their home to cover their bills. Director of Policy, John Godfrey, has suggested that over the next 10 years the solution to the social care crisis lies in people selling up, or releasing some of the equity in their property.

Online shopping is depriving us of much needed exercise

Online shopping is ruining our health, the country's Chief Medical Officer, Dame Sally Davies, has said, urging the public to walk to the supermarket and carry groceries home to help restore basic fitness. Dame Sally urged the public to make "little changes" to their everyday habits, warning that sedentary modern lifestyles have become one of the most pressing health problems facing the nation.

Students in Brighton are unhappy over university's new sugar tax

Students at the University of Brighton are in revolt after their university became the first in the country to impose a sugar tax. Campaigners say the 10p levy on drinks containing added sugar will hit poor students the hardest.

New injection offers relief for arthritis sufferers
Tens of thousands of people with debilitating forms of arthritis could be treated with a new injection as early as Spring 2017, if the treatment gains approval from the European Medicines Agency, which currently authorises new medication for use in Britain and the rest of the EU. The experimental drug, Sarilumab, which stifles a critical part of the inflammation that damages patients’ joints, is administered as a fortnightly injection and, if approved, will be used to treat the most serious and painful cases of arthritis, where other frontline treatments have failed.

**Patients left with ruined teeth as cosmetic dentists get rich quick**
A “gold rush” of dentists setting up lucrative cosmetic practices with no training has led to a rise in ruined teeth, according to the General Dental Council, the dentists’ regulatory body. Claims made against such practices have risen by 80 per cent in the past five years as traumatised patients are left disfigured, out of pocket and in need of corrective surgery.

**Boys need to talk about fears amid pressure on body image**
More than half of secondary school boys consider eating disorders, dieting and extreme exercising to be gender-neutral issues, a survey has found. It suggests that negative body image is as much a problem for young men as for their female classmates. The survey of more than 1,000 boys by Credos, a think tank funded by a range of advertisers, found that advertising was named by 53 per cent of respondents as one of the main influences putting pressure on boys to ‘look good’.

**HIV charity criticises NHS England over “homophobic” PrEP statement**
The HIV and Aids charity, The Terrence Higgins Trust, has accused NHS England of issuing an “intentionally provocative” and “homophobic” statement, in response to the court ruling last week that NHS England has responsibility for commissioning pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for preventing HIV.

**CQC uncovers staffing problems at care homes rated ‘Inadequate’**
Staffing shortages, a lack of training for employees, problems with administering and managing medicines, and an over-reliance on district nursing teams were among the issues identified by the CQC in their latest round of care homes inspections, where homes were rated Inadequate.

**Some out-of-hours services in Glasgow close due to GP shortages**
Some out-of-hours services in Glasgow and Clyde have had to close at short notice over the summer holiday period due to a shortage of GPs. NHS Glasgow has been forced to centralise services, use more nurse practitioners and enhance pay rates in an attempt to cope with a shortage of GPs and to keep services open.

**Young people urged to get MMR jab after a surge in measles cases**
Public health officials are urging young people to book an appointment with their GP practice if they have not been vaccinated against measles, after a big rise in cases this year. Public Health England (PHE) figures show a four-fold rise in cases, with 234 confirmed between January and June, compared to just 54 over the same period last year.
**CQC failing to record breaches in 'duty of candour'**

The Care Quality Commission does not keep data on how many reports it receives regarding breaches in the 'duty of candour' to patients, nor if hospitals responded to concerns on this, a report by the patient safety charity, Action Against Medical Accidents, has found. Through a Freedom of Information request, the charity learnt that the CQC does not gather central statistics about breaches in 'duty of candour' provisions or on any remedial action taken by NHS providers. (The 'duty of candour' requirement was introduced following the Mid-Staffordshire public inquiry and is one of 12 fundamental standards that health providers are expected to adhere to. It was enshrined in law in November 2014 and mandates that NHS providers are open and honest with patients and their families when there has been a medical accident).

*HSJ*

**International News**

**Florida senator says women infected with the Zika virus should be refused abortions**

Marco Rubio, the Florida senator who ran an unsuccessful campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, has said women infected with the Zika virus should be denied abortions. He says the ban should apply even if a woman has reason to believe that her child will be born with severe microcephaly - a developmental disorder that can result from infection with the Zika virus.

*Telegraph*

**Smoking rates vary widely in US racial and ethnic groups**

Smoking rates in US racial and ethnic groups can vary more than twofold between subgroups, a new study published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found. The findings, CDC officials say, show that smoking reduction efforts might be more effective if they targeted culturally appropriate interventions, focussed on those subgroups with the highest prevalence of tobacco use.

*BMJ*

**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](http://us9.campaignarchive1.com/?u=e8f3c8840996c6e8855767261&id=d193b28971&e=2e5ca76e43).

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