



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 89: October 2014

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

300,000 signature petition delivered to number 10 on 18th September 2014

After months of effort by PPG members, our President, Dr Patricia Wilkie accompanied Dr Maureen Baker, RCGP Chair of Council to 10 Downing Street to deliver almost 300,000 signatures supporting the [Put patients first: Back general practice](#) campaign. Dr Baker thanked every one who signed and encouraged others to do so and said "It really is going to make a difference to us, to general practice and the care we can deliver to our patients" You can continue support and keep up the pressure by lobbying your MP and the Health and Social Care Board. Read more [here](#) to see the evidence and statistics about increasing shortage of GPs and the likelihood of up to 600 UK practices at risk of closure.

1. GP 2015-16 contract changes: PPGs to be a contractual requirement in England

a. The contract agreed between the NHS Employers Federation and the British Medical Association (BMA) contains a number of important changes. From 1 April 2015, it will be a contractual requirement for all **English** practices to have a PPG and to 'make reasonable efforts for this to be representative of the practice population'. The practice must engage with the PPG including obtaining patient feedback and agreeing where appropriate, to act on suggestions for improvement. Practices will confirm through the e-declaration that they have fulfilled these requirements. The change will reduce practices' workload as reporting requirements will be withdrawn. Having a PPG is expected for CQC inspection.

Since April 2011, an optional clause enabled practices to attract an enhanced payment by forming a Patient Reference Group (PRG) and meeting six defined targets. This was funded by a reduction in the payment for 'out of hours' services. This small increment will be absorbed into the "global sum" i.e. the total payment for compulsory services. This change follows feedback from practices that excessive monitoring and reporting has detracted from the purpose of patient participation. The practice must engage with the PPG including obtaining patient feedback and, where the practice and PPG agree, will act on suggestions for improvement. Practices will be required to confirm through the e-declaration that they have fulfilled these requirements. You can read a [summary](#) of the changes or the [full contract](#)

b. Online access to medical records

Patient online access to their medical record will be widened. The 2014-15 contract required practices to provide by March 2015 online access to summary information i.e. medications, allergies, adverse reactions and any other items of data agreed between the patient and practice. They will also be required to offer online access to more detailed information, where requested by a patient, i.e. information held in coded form. GPs have the option and tools to withhold coded information and /or free text within the record where they judge it to be in the patient's interests or where there is reference to a third party.

2. New start date for out of area registration confirmed

NHS England has confirmed the extension of choice of GP practice through the introduction of out of area patient registration will now be launched 5 January 2015 rather than 1 October 2014. This change in date is to ensure that the new arrangements are fully operational across England. Final guidance will be published this month. [Read more.....](#)

3. Changing face of UK medicine

A [major report](#) on the state of medicine and practice in the UK has been published by the General Medical Council (GMC), the regulator of all doctors practising in the UK, which decides whether doctors are qualified to work in the UK. The 2014 report, the fourth to be published, contains more (2013) data than ever, including

- Female medical students outnumber males, 54% to 46%, but growth in numbers of women attending UK medical schools is slowing
- 49% of GPs and 32% of specialists are women
- More graduates from the European Economic Area joined the register than other international graduates, of whom one in three non-UK graduates came from Southern Europe, the bulk of whom came from Italy and Greece

4. Are you getting the best out of your medicine?

A medicines optimisation scratch card is being launched by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and others as part of an ongoing campaign to encourage people to visit their local pharmacy to discuss their medicines and to raise awareness of the guidance and help available from pharmacy teams about how best to use medicines. The post-card sized scratch card contains five simple statements about medicines use. Individuals scratch a section of the card to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree with each statement and then return the card to a member of the pharmacy team who will interpret the responses and can provide appropriate advice and guidance.

5. Patients' seeking online diagnoses before consulting the GP

In a survey by a medical market research company, a third of the 330 UK physicians surveyed, (including 300 GPs) said patients are telling them what treatment they need and what prescription they should receive, based on information from apps and the internet. Fewer than 5% of doctors felt it was helpful. There are concerns about the "explosion in the quantity and quality of information now available to them and their patients via unregulated digital media and technology". NHS Choices at www.nhs.uk/ a reliable source Information from the National Health Service on conditions, treatments, local services and healthy living.

6. Diary dates: November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

a. With only six months average time between diagnosis and death, lung cancer is the most common cancer worldwide, claiming more than 35,000 lives in the UK every year. Awareness leads to greater chance of early diagnosis. The earlier the diagnosis, the better the chance is of swift lung cancer treatment and the ability to beat the cancer. [More details](#)

b. International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3 December 2014

The theme: "Break Barriers, Open Doors: for an inclusive society and development for all" draws awareness to persons with disabilities and the problems they are faced with in their everyday lives. It is estimated that persons with disabilities around the world make up 10% of the population, and 80% live in developing countries. [Read more](#)

7. 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

8. Reminders

Please forward 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

October 2014