



Registered Charity No. 292157



E-Bulletin from Association for Patient Participation August 2014

1. Put Patients First Back General Practice: Petition deadline 15th August 2014

a. Petition: Thanks to all the many PPGs which are actively supporting the campaign by gathering signatures. Whether the petition booklet has 4, 40 or 400 signatures, every one matters. **If you are reading this just after the deadline, please send it anyway, as the names could still count towards total.**

b. Send it to: Royal College of General Practitioners, Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2FB

N.B. Practices were sent a prepaid addressed envelope

c. Writing to your MP: If you have not done so already, please go [online](#), enter your postcode and simply add your name and address. Encourage others to do the same

2. Research Engagement Award announced by NIHR and N.A.P.P.

Read [more](#) about this on the N.A.P.P. website This new award was launched at the conference by Simon Denegri, Chair, INVOLVE, National Institute for Clinical Research Director for Public Participation and Engagement in Research. In partnership with N.A.P.P., NIHR Clinical Research Network will acknowledge the contribution made by patients and will look for examples from PPGs which illustrate:

- Building a research culture - making research part of the everyday for practices and CCGs
- Evidence of events and activities which have promoted Clinical Research Network patient campaigns
- Where PPGs have provided a patient perspective and feedback options for patients and much more

. The winner will receive a small cash prize. Application forms and details of the criteria are available online at www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/crnappaward

Closing date: 12th September 2014

Award announced: October 2014

3. Concerns about GP premises: BMA survey

Echoing the concerns being highlighted in the RCGP and N.A.P.P. campaign regarding the gaps in funding for the delivery of GP services, GPs have raised concerns that premises are not fit for purpose during talks at the British Medical Association's London headquarters earlier this in mid-July with health minister Earl Howe, who has responsibility for quality. They discussed a new BMA [survey](#) which revealed the scale of GP concerns about their premises. Nearly half the UK's GP practices responded to the BMA survey, which found doctors struggling to provide essential services in buildings that are cramped and outdated.

4. Named GP for every patient over the age of 75

Since April 2014, GP practices have been required to "to ensure that each patient on their practice list aged 75 or over is assigned a named, accountable GP" In some quarters, concern has been expressed about how practices decide who each patient's named GP is and whether the patient can influence the choice? The precise guidance is to be found among the GP contract FAQs [here](#) where the following two statements appear

- 'It is for practices to decide on the process for determining the name of each patient's GP.'
- 'It would be sensible, wherever possible, for practices to align the named GP with any preference the patient has already expressed'

5. In support of continuity of care: Seeing the same GP can reduce emergency department attendance

This is just one of several recommendations made in a [report](#) published by researchers at the University of Bristol which showed that attendances at emergency departments can be reduced by enabling patients to see the same GP every time they visit their doctor's surgery

9. Poll confirms public support for wider access to GP records

According to new research from YouGov, 85% of the British public want any healthcare professional treating them to have secure electronic access to key data from the GP record,. The [poll](#) for EMIS Group revealed that 58% are unaware that hospital doctors are often unable to electronically access information from a patient's GP medical record. In particular they are shocked that A&E doctors do not have automatic access to information on long-term conditions, medication history or allergies, so either treat without it, or phone the GP to ask for information to be faxed through. Many patients fear this could lead to mistakes in treatment.

The findings come as Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt renewed his [call for patient records to be shared](#) across the entire health and social care system, to ensure the NHS 'reaches its potential' in providing integrated care to patients.

6. GPs are not always the first point of contact

A new report urges the public and policy makers to look beyond general practice as the only alternative to hospital care, highlighting the need to address the demand and fiscal pressure on the NHS by taking care out of hospital and into the community. It argues that this can only be successful if people have a clear understanding that GPs are not always the most appropriate first contact and stresses the key role of high street health specialists in tackling public health challenges like smoking and obesity. The report produced by bodies representing community pharmacists, optometrists, hearing aid providers with the NHS Alliance which includes clinicians and patients [More](#)

7. Role of pharmacy in better asthma care

On a similar theme, a report published by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee outlines the significant contribution that community pharmacies could make to the care of people with asthma. The [report](#) pulls together evidence from a number of local pilots and services to show the potential impact of community pharmacies.

8. Diary date: European Antibiotic Awareness Day November 18th 2014

Public Health England hopes for 10,000 pledges from healthcare professionals and members of the public on the [Antibiotic Guardian website](#). Overprescribing and overuse of antibiotics contribute to a looming public health crisis as existing antimicrobials become less effective.

9. 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

10. Reminders

Please forward this bulletin to fellow members as promptly as possible. We do not send hard copies of e-bulletins. This and all previous-bulletins are at <http://www.napp.org.uk/ebulletins.html>

Edith Todd

Trustee

August 2014