



# E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 99: September 2015

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

### a. N.A.P.P. Research Engagement Award 2015-16

For a second year, the Clinical Research Network has launched this [award](#) in partnership with N.A.P.P. We hope that this will encourage more PPG members to find out about health research. First and second cash prizes are £400 and £100 for the most 'research active' and engaged PPGs (or equivalent). Further details of the criteria are in the [Application Pack](#)

Core elements are

- Health research
- Patient Participations Group(s)
- Primary care practice

Only online entries will be considered, using this [Entry Form](#). You can also email supporting evidence (videos, photographs, media clippings etc.)

- Closing date: [Friday 15 January 2016](#)
- Award announced: w/c 25 January 2016
- Award ceremony: Thursday 25 February

To see how 2014 winners Holycroft Surgery achieved success, watch this short [video clip](#)

### b. 2016 Diary dates

- **PPG Awareness week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016** Normally held in first week of June, but moved on to avoid starting with a Bank Holiday on Monday 31st May
- **Annual Conference 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Cheshire**

**c. UK Trust Awards** is a celebration of the most trusted and respected businesses and organisations in UK, voted for by the public. Entering in the charity and social Enterprise category, we were beaten by a worthy world-wide charity, The Giving Machine. Thank you to everyone who voted for us.

## 2. 2015 Diary date: Self Care Week (16 – 22 November 2015)

N.A.P.P. has been actively involved with the Self Care Forum since its inception in 2011. We know that many PPGs arrange events to coincide with the week. Resources such as the [Self Care Aware Poster](#) can be downloaded [here](#). This year's theme highlights the [SCF manifesto](#) "My Health, My Life" which pinpoints what needs to happen throughout life for people to feel confident in taking control of their own health, looking after themselves, making healthy lifestyle choices and knowing when they really do need to seek NHS help and support.

## 3. NHS England "reliance on paper": implications for patient safety

Tim Kelsey, NHS England's National Director for Patients and Information and chair of the National Information Board has urged health and social care leaders to end the unnecessary reliance on paper in treatment of patients and to make services safer, more effective and efficient. By April 2016, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), working with local authority partners and providers of care, must submit plans for how they will eradicate the use of paper in the treatment of patients across all health and care services in their region by 2020. For example, from October all discharge summaries for acute or day care patients transferring from hospital to the care of their GP must be completed electronically. Read [further details](#) of the plans and time-scale

#### 4. RCGP Survey about federation

The NHS Five Year Forward View, published in October 2014 set out a vision for the future of the NHS, placing General Practice and wider Primary Care at its heart. There is broad agreement that federations or networks of practices are way forward, posing challenges and the need for significant support and guidance for GPs and their staff. NHS England has commissioned the Royal College of GPs in partnership with the Nuffield Trust to seek the views of GPs, starting with an online survey which was distributed to GPs in July. .

There is still time for GPs to take part in the survey , which should take no more than five minutes to complete and participation is of course voluntary. The changes will also affect patients, so do encourage your GPs to take part by **clicking here: [Start survey](#)**. The same survey will be re-circulated in 2016, to determine what has changed.

#### 5. Accessing and sharing health records and patient confidentiality

Individuals have a right to access their own health records, and in limited circumstances, access to the records of other people. The Government has made a commitment that patients should gain access to their health records within 21 days following a request. Access to health records may also be granted in limited circumstances for relatives or in the case of deceased patients. Many patient organisations and individuals have expressed concerns about possible confidentiality issues.

This [briefing](#) from the \*House of Commons Library research service sets out current arrangements for accessing patient records and sharing confidential patient information. It describes how patients may request access to their records, and the circumstances in which access to the records of others may be allowed.

(\* The service provides MPs and their staff with the impartial briefing and evidence base they need to do their work in scrutinising Government, proposing legislation, and supporting constituents)

#### 6. Not enough GPs: Survey by Royal College of GPs

We receive a regular stream of reports for PPG members expressing concern about problems in recruiting GPs at their practice. Most believe that this suggests that the practice is at fault. Throughout the UK there is a significant shortage of GPs, recently estimated at a shortfall of 8000 in England alone. An RCGP [survey](#) of 549 practices in England found that 10.2% of full time equivalent positions are vacant – 61% of which are currently filled by locum or agency staff. More than one in 10 family doctor roles in England are vacant – with many practices increasingly having to rely on locum doctors to deliver patient care, according to new research by the Royal College of GPs. Of the practices surveyed, 64% reported that finding enough locum doctors to meet growing patient demand was either difficult or very difficult. Just 8% reported that this was easy.

#### 7. Are you eligible for the shingles vaccination?

Public Health England has produced [a poster](#) showing the ages of those who are eligible for the shingles vaccination from 1 September 2015

#### 8. 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**. To get your PPG's login details, **visit the website, click on Members and use the screen instructions**. We recommend each PPG to have a group email address to be the username for the login.

#### 9. Reminders: Please email 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, September 2015*