

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

Monthly Monitoring Report

January 2015

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Recess Dates

- House of Commons NA
- House of Lords NA
- Northern Ireland Assembly 13th December 2014 – 4th January 2015
- Scottish Parliament 20th December – 4th January 2015
- Welsh Assembly 15th December – 11th January

Week 2

05.01.2015

News and Press Releases

Scottish Government: £12 Million Research Funding
A £12 million scheme which will support Scotland's most promising clinical researchers has been launched by the Scottish Government. See more [here](#).

Department of Health: Public Health Commissioning
Public health commissioning in the NHS 2015 to 2016. See more [here](#).

06.01.2015

News and Press Releases

MHRA: Orange and Green Guides 2015 published
The latest UK pharmaceutical regulations, EU directives and guidance for manufacturers and distributors of human medicines,

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

known as the Orange and Green Guides, compiled by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), are available to buy now. These are an essential purchase for anyone subject to good manufacturing practice (GMP) and good distribution practice (GDP) in Europe. See more [here](#).

07.01.2015

News and Press Releases

Scottish Government: New funding for specialist nurses
An extra £2.5 million will be invested in specialist nursing and care, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced.

The first allocation of the new funding package, £700,000, will go towards nursing care and support for those with motor-neurone disease. The Scottish Government will be engaging with patient groups through a short review of specialist nursing provision to determine where the remaining funding would be best targeted. See more [here](#).

NI Executive: Cancer Waiting Times

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety today published the Northern Ireland Cancer Waiting Times Statistics Release for July, August and September 2014. See more [here](#).

NHS England: Medical Director launches search for innovators

Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS England's Medical Director, today launched the NHS Innovation Accelerator programme. Together with hosts UCL Partners and The Health Foundation, NHS England is inviting healthcare pioneers from around the world to apply to develop and scale their tried and tested innovations across parts of the NHS. See more [here](#).

08.01.2015

News and Press Releases

NHS England: Director of New Models of Care

NHS England, Monitor and TDA on behalf of the six national NHS bodies who led the development of the NHS Five Year Forward View have today appointed two experienced national

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

leaders to support implementation of the new care models identified in the Forward View. See more [here](#).

[09.01.2015](#)

House of Lords – Debates and Oral Answers

The future of the NHS

Motion to Take Note - Lord Turnberg: That this House takes note of the future of the National Health Service.

Lord Turnberg (Lab): My Lords, it is a privilege to be able to open this debate on the future of the NHS. It comes at a time when we are gearing up for the election and when it seems entirely possible that the NHS will be of some interest to the electorate. I will try to set the scene with a broad brush and leave it to other noble Lords to focus on various specific aspects. See more [here](#).

News and Press Releases

ABPI: Cancer Medicines

ABPI Director of Value and Access, Dr Paul Catchpole, comments on the re-evaluation of Cancer Drugs Fund medicines. See more [here](#).

Week 3

[12.01.2015](#)

Scottish Parliament – Committees

Public Audit: NHS in Scotland 2013/14

Section 23 report - NHS in Scotland 2013/14: The Committee will take evidence on the Auditor General for Scotland report entitled “NHS in Scotland 2013/14”. See [here](#).

News and Press Releases

Scottish Government: NHS Funding

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

All boards to receive above inflation uplifts next year
The Scottish Government has today announced that an extra £65m will be made available to NHS in the next financial year. The funding boost for 2015/16 will ensure that all territorial health boards will receive uplifts next year which are at least 1 per cent above the rate of inflation. See more [here](#).

NHS England: Bid to Beat Cancer

NHS England today (Sunday) announced a new independent taskforce to develop a five-year action plan for cancer services that will improve survival rates and save thousands of lives. See more [here](#).

NHS England: Cancer Drug Fund

The NHS Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) today (Monday) published the outcome of its review of drugs included in the Fund. See more [here](#).

13.01.2015

House of Commons – Written Answers

Dermatology

Sir Paul Beresford (Mole Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for **Health**, what steps his Department is taking to curb excessive disparities in the cost of dispensing (a) dermatology and (b) non-dermatology preferred unlicensed dermatological preparations; and what steps he is taking to ensure that all pharmacies in England obtain a whole-of-market quote from manufacturers of such preparations, as is the case in Scotland.

Dr Daniel Poulter: The Drug Tariff sets out what National **Health** Service dispensing contractors will be paid for the products supplied as part of providing pharmaceutical services and the fees for providing those services in primary care. The current arrangements for paying for unlicensed medicines were introduced in 2011. These arrangements, unlike the ones for Scotland, do not require pharmacy contractors to obtain a whole-of-market quote from manufacturers. However, the Drug Tariff sets the price that the NHS pays to dispensing contractors for dispensing many of the most popular specials. Setting a reimbursement price, applied to all contractors, stops disparity of payment for these products and encourages dispensing contractors to obtain best value for the NHS, while also ensuring patients receive the medicines they need, when they need them.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

Due to the number of unlicensed medicines that can potentially be prescribed, it is not possible to list a reimbursement price for all available specials.

Where the reimbursement price of a product has not been set, dispensing contractors are paid according to how the product is sourced. Where a dispensing contractor buys the product from a specials manufacturer or an importing company, they must claim the invoice price of the pack size used to dispense the product minus any discounts or rebates received.

NHS England is responsible for commissioning pharmaceutical services in primary care and it is for NHS England to consider whether dispensing contractors have acted appropriately, including excessive claims for payment made by contractors. In addition, the General Pharmaceutical Council is responsible for regulating the pharmacy professions should there be any concerns of professional misconduct. See [here](#).

14.01.2015

News and Press Releases

NHS Confederation: New Clinical Director

Dr Howard Freeman today (14 January) began work as the new Clinical Director of the NHS Partners Network (NHSPN). See more [here](#).

PH Wales: Funding for Innovation

The Health Foundation has £1.5 million available for up to 20 teams to test and develop innovative ideas to improve health care delivery in the UK. See more [here](#).

15.01.2015

Committees

Public Accounts Committee: Cancer Services

Chair's statement on improving cancer services and outcomes in England. See more [here](#).

News and Press Releases

NICE: New NICE Indicator Advisory Committee

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

NICE, the health and social care guidance body, is streamlining two of its committees which focus on improving the quality of care provided by family doctors, and supporting the NHS in commissioning better quality healthcare.

The single new NICE Indicator Advisory Committee will replace the current two separate committees: the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) Advisory Committee and the Clinical Commissioning Group Outcome Indicator Set (CCG OIS) Advisory Committee. See more [here](#).

NHS England: Extra investment in primary care
Patients across England are set to benefit from a £250m investment in GP premises every year for the next four years. The NHS England funding will deliver on the promise of a new deal for primary care, as highlighted in the [NHS Five Year Forward View](#). It is the first tranche of the recently announced £1 billion investment to improve premises, help practices to harness technology and give practices the space to offer more appointments and improved care for the frail elderly – essential in supporting the reduction of hospital admissions. See more [here](#).

16.01.2015

House of Commons – Written Answers

Dermatology

Cheryl Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many consultant dermatologist training posts have been funded in each financial year since 2010; and what assessment he has made of the sufficiency of that number.

Dr Daniel Poulter: Health Education England (HEE) has commissioned 177 specialty training places in dermatology in 2014/15 and intends to maintain this number in 2015/16. Data on the volume of training places commissioned by strategic health authorities in the period before 2014/15 is not available. HEE is responsible for workforce planning and education commissioning activity to ensure that the National Health Service in England has available a future workforce in the right numbers, with the right skills, values and behaviours this includes dermatologists.

HEE has recently published its second national workforce plan for England for the period 2015/16 which is built upon the needs of local employers, commissioners and other stakeholders who,

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

as members of Local Education Training Boards have shaped the 13 local plans that are the foundation of the national plan for England. The priorities in the plan are the priorities of the NHS, identified locally and nationally by employers, colleges and other stakeholders. See [here](#).

Cheryl Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many vacant consultant dermatologist posts there were in the NHS on 13 January 2015.

Dr Daniel Poulter: Information on vacancies is not collected by the Department. The last annual National Health Service vacancy survey in England was undertaken by the Health and Social Care Information Centre in 2010. The survey was suspended in 2011 and then discontinued in 2013 following the publication of the Fundamental Review of Data Returns, which aimed to reduce the burden of the collection of data from NHS organisations.

Information on the number of consultant dermatologists who hold agency contracts and other contractual or financial arrangements is not held by the Department. The latest annual workforce census data, published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), shows there were 486 directly employed consultant dermatologists working in the NHS in England as at 30 September 2013. The next census will be published by the HSCIC on the 25 March 2015 and will provide data for September 2014. See [here](#).

Dermatology Services

Cheryl Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what his Department's policy is on the long-term use of locum consultants to run dermatology services in England.

Dr Daniel Poulter: The Department expects National Health Service organisations to have a strong grip on their workforce planning and management across all their specialties including dermatology, making permanent appointments to consultant posts wherever possible. Via Monitor, the NHS Trust Development Authority and the Care Quality Commission, the Department is working with the NHS to reduce trusts' reliance on temporary staffing including the long term use of locum consultants. See [here](#).

Cheryl Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many consultant dermatologists with (a) permanent contracts, (b) agency contracts and (c) other contractual or financial

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

arrangements worked in the NHS on 13 January 2015.

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Week 4

19.01.2015

House of Commons – Debates

NHS Specialised Services

Sir David Amess (in the Chair): Our subject for debate is the national commissioning of NHS specialised services. There is clearly great interest in the debate and I am sure colleagues can work out how much time is at our disposal. Obviously, I want to call everyone who would like to speak.

Stephen Gilbert (St Austell and Newquay) (LD): It is a pleasure to open this debate and to serve under your chairmanship, Sir David. May I be one of the first to congratulate you on your recent knighthood. “Sir David Amess” looks very good on the name plate. I welcome the many hon. and right hon. Members who have made the time today to come and discuss this important issue. I know that there are many Members who would have been here today, but have other commitments, including my hon. Friend the Member for Meon Valley (George Hollingbery) and my right hon. Friend the Member for North West Hampshire (Sir George Young). They have both contacted me about particular cases and share the general concerns that

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

we will be expressing this afternoon, and I am sure they are not the only ones. See more [here](#).

News and Press Releases

Welsh Assembly: Budget 2015-16

Finance Minister Simon Hamilton MLA has supported frontline services in health and education as well as underpinning economic growth in the Executive's 2015/16 budget. See more [here](#).

[20.01.2015](#)

News and Press Releases

NHS England: Ageing population

Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS England's National Medical Director, has warned the NHS's future is in danger because its model of care cannot meet the relentlessly growing demand for treatment caused by the ageing population. See more [here](#).

[21.01.2015](#)

Scottish Parliament – Motions and Amendments

2020 Vision, the Strategic Forward Direction of the NHS
Shona Robison: That the Parliament is committed to ensuring that Scotland's NHS remains in public hands and free at the point of need; recognises that Scotland's caring services face challenges common across the developed world, including those derived from an ageing population, changing demands of service provision and increased costs associated with new medicines and technologies; supports the achievements that quality improvement programmes have made, such as the Scottish Patient Safety Programme and the Early Years Collaborative, and the importance of sustaining and spreading these achievements; agrees that the 2020 vision's strategy for integrated health and social care is key to ensuring sustainable caring services long into the future; commends the contribution of NHS and social care staff in caring for Scotland and in seeking to achieve the aims of the 2020 vision; believes that the contribution of staff, stakeholders and users of

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

the country's caring services will be vital to the development and implementation of delivery plans for the short and long term that meet the aims of the 2020 vision, and welcomes the recent additional investments in Scotland's NHS, including a further £100 million over three years to address delays in discharge and support people to remain at home or in a homely setting for as long as possible. See [here](#).

News and Press Releases

Health budget increases

Scottish health spending over £12 billion for the first time. Ahead of stage one of the budget debate today Finance Secretary John Swinney confirmed the Government's commitment to increased funding of the NHS in Scotland as he took part in a final site visit to the new South Glasgow University Hospital. As part of the budget process the resource health budget will increase by £380m taking it to over £12 billion for the first time. The funding increase for health will exceed the Barnett consequentials received from health consequentials in England. See more [here](#).

Finance: £80 million investment to strengthen collaborative and innovative projects

The investment for the Ireland Wales programme 2014-2020 was announced today by the Welsh Government Minister for Finance and Government Business, Jane Hutt, during a meeting of the National Assembly for Wales' Enterprise and Business Committee. The programme will see Welsh and Irish partners working together on collaborative and innovative projects in the areas of innovation, climate change, cultural and natural resources, heritage and tourism. See more [here](#).

NHS England: LTCs

New tools for helping care for people with Long Term Conditions. Dr Martin McShane has welcomed the publication of three new handbooks aimed at planning services for people with long term conditions. The handbooks, which can be accessed online, are aimed at supporting commissioners and practitioners in planning services for people with long term conditions (LTCs), in order to achieve more effective, personalised care. See more [here](#).

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

22.01.2015

News and Press Releases

Access to local health services

A major £10m investment in Wales' primary care services will see a wider range of healthcare professionals deliver care in or close to people's homes, freeing up GPs' time and expertise to care for people with more complex needs, Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford said today. See more [here](#).

King's Fund report: How is the NHS performing?

The latest survey of finance directors shows a deepening pessimism about the current financial state of health organisations and worries about the coming financial year. See more [here](#).

King's Fund: NHS crisis grows

The King's Fund is warning that problems in hospitals are spreading beyond A&E to other key areas of performance, increasing the risk of a NHS crisis. See more [here](#).

23.01.2015

Scottish Parliament - Debates

The NHS: 2020 Vision

The Presiding Officer (Tricia Marwick): Good afternoon.

The next item of business is a debate on motion S4M-12120, in the name of Shona Robison, on the 2020 vision, the strategic forward direction of the national health service. Members who wish to speak in the debate should press their request-to-speak buttons now. We have a bit of time in hand, so we will be generous with the length of speeches if members take interventions.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport

(Shona Robison): Almost three months into my job as Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, I start my speech by saying how proud I am of Scotland's NHS. In the past few months, the NHS, alongside its partners in the other emergency services, has faced a number of very difficult high-profile emergencies. The George Square tragedy just before Christmas and the on-going challenges with Ebola have demonstrated the tireless compassion and professionalism of our front-line staff and we should be proud of each and every one of them.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

The NHS has a good record and I am grateful to be able to highlight once again through this debate the on-going achievements of the NHS and to express my deep appreciation of the tireless efforts of NHS staff in delivering high-quality patient care. That work is universally recognised, not least by the Scottish people, with 89 per cent of in-patients rating their care and treatment positively in 2014, the highest figure since we started surveying patients. See more [here](#).

Week 5

[26.01.2015](#)

News and Press Releases

NHS England: New Models of Care

NHS England and its national partners have announced a new programme to focus on the acceleration of the design and implementation of new models of care in the NHS.

As set out in the [Five Year Forward View](#), rapid progress is needed to speed up the development of new care models for promoting health and wellbeing and providing care that can then be replicated more easily in other parts of the system.

See more [here](#).

[27.01.2015](#)

News and Press Releases

Primary care workforce development

Health Education England (HEE) is at the forefront of developments to enhance the primary care workforce and improve services for patients. See more [here](#).

NHS Confederation: Labour's ten-year plan

Commenting on Labour's ten-year plan for health and social care, NHS Confederation director of policy Dr Johnny Marshall, a practising GP, said:

"Our members across the health system tell us they are tired of top-down edicts and need the space and freedom to deliver care for their populations. We are reassured Labour's plan is not prescriptive and does not call for yet another reorganisation of

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

NHS structures. It is important that the progress made by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) is built on and not lost. See more [here](#).

Kings Fund: Labour's 10-year plan

Responding to Andy Burnham's speech announcing Labour's 10-year plan for health and social care, Chris Ham, Chief Executive of The King's Fund said:

'Andy Burnham has set out an ambitious and wide-ranging vision for the NHS and social care. It throws down the gauntlet to the other parties to set out their plans ahead of the general election. 'Burnham is right to put integrated care at the heart of this vision. This echoes the prescription for a single budget and single commissioner for health and social care set out by the Barker Commission. His emphasis on mental health was also very welcome. See more [here](#).

Nuffield Trust: Labour's Ten Year

Responding to Labour's Ten Year Plan for Health and Care, Nuffield Trust Chief Executive Nigel Edwards said: "Labour's plan presents a credible explanation of their understanding of the issues facing health and social care. It would be helpful to have the same from the other political parties at this stage in the electoral cycle." See more [here](#).

[28.01.2015](#)

News and Press Releases

Welsh Government: £70m investment in the Welsh NHS will help reform services – Mark Drakeford

Following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement in December, Finance Minister Jane Hutt announced that the £70m being made available to the Welsh Government by the UK Government in 2015-16 would be allocated to the Welsh NHS.

The £70m is part of the extra £295m being invested by the Welsh Government in health and social care in 2015-16. This means the budget for Health and Social Services in Wales in 2015-16 will be £6.7bn – the highest it's ever been, and will account for 43% of the total Welsh Government budget. See more [here](#).

NICE: Draft QOF and CCG OIS indicators unveiled

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

Ensuring patients with depression have access to psychological treatment through primary care, and encouraging commissioners and providers to improve the quality of obesity services in those with chronic conditions are among topics proposed in the latest set of draft QOF and CCG OIS indicators. See more [here](#).

NHS England: Special Services

NHS England today launches a new consultation about how it will prioritise which specialised services and treatments to invest in. Patient groups asked it to consult on changes to the principles and process by which it makes these decisions. NHS England directly commissions around 145 specialised services. In order to ensure the maximum number of patients benefit from new innovative treatments coming on stream, choices need to be made about which of these to fund. See more [here](#).

30.01.2015

News and Press Releases

NICE: new guideline to identify and treat skin cancer (melanoma) earlier

NICE has developed its first guideline to reduce the numbers of people dying from the skin cancer melanoma. The draft guideline is aimed at tackling wide variation across the country in diagnosis and treatment. See more [here](#).

END