



E-Bulletin from National Association for Patient Participation Issue Number 138 March 2019

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

- a. **N.A.P.P. Annual Conference “Celebrating General Practice, Quality for Patients” 15th June 2019** at the Cheltenham Chase Hotel, near both Cheltenham and Gloucester. Patients and practice staff in member PPGs receive a 25% discount on fees, and there is a further “Early Bird” reduction for places reserved before 20th April, so make sure you reserve your places as soon as possible. Further details and the online registration form can be accessed from our website [here](#), to use Eventbrite registration.
- b. **PPG Awareness Week: 10th - 15th June.** Access the Resource Pack by following the [link](#) on the home page of our website. This has now been established for seven years and gets bigger and better each year. It’s an opportunity to showcase what your PPG does, and to interest and recruit new members. Working jointly with other local PPGs can also help to publicise what PPGs are, what they can do and how they can influence local services.
- c. **Corkill Award 2019:** Download the [application form](#) on the N.A.P.P. website. Tell us about your innovative ideas, successful activities, anything which has made a difference to patients, the practice, especially if this is something which could be replicated elsewhere. Closing date for applications is **30th April 2019**
- d. **N.A.P.P.’s Group of 100:** This was launched in 2017. This is a group of approximately 100 PPG representatives who are committed to filling in a short electronic questionnaire quickly (usually between 5 and 10 days) to targeted questions, usually electronically. This has been a successful initiative for N.A.P.P. and for a number of organisations, such as the General Medical Council and the Professional Standards Authority, which have sought patients’ views. There are a few vacancies. Anyone interested please see details [here](#) on the N.A.P.P. website where you also can complete and send the Membership Agreement form to admin@napp.org.uk

2. NHS wants to hear the views of staff and patients on NHS Long Term Plan

NHS England is inviting **patients**, NHS staff, partner organisations and interested members of the public to give their views on potential proposals for changing current primary legislation relating to the NHS. You can take part and ensure your voice is heard by completing the short survey available online [here](#) where you can read the consultation document which summarises the proposals and the reasons behind them. NHS England want as many people as possible to give their views and intend to share the feedback with the Parliamentary Health and Social Care Select Committee to inform their inquiries. **Closing date: 25th April 2019.**

3. Public consultation on draft updated NICE guideline on diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure

In the biggest change to NICE’s previous guidance published in 2011, the level of a person’s cardiovascular disease risk at which treatment for high blood pressure can be started has been reduced. The draft [guideline](#) recommends that blood pressure lowering drugs should be offered to people aged under 80 with a diagnosis of stage 1 hypertension (high blood pressure) who have a 10% or greater risk of developing cardiovascular disease within the next 10 years.

Details of the public consultation are [here](#). The consultation **closes on 23rd April 2019 at, 5pm**

4. Policy on data sharing risks sowing public mistrust

Earlier this month, a [report](#) in the Health Service Journal on a speech by NHS Digital CEO, Sarah Wilkinson, who warned that confused policy on NHS data sharing risks “deep and almost irreparable” damage. She believes makes it difficult to have much-needed “open and transparent conversation with the public to allay fears about the National data opt-out. She described opt-out process as “not sophisticated enough” emphasising that it is critical that the code of confidentiality applied to health and care data is made clear.

5. Information about patient data.

Several PPG members have expressed concern about data-sharing, lack of information about where data is stored and who may have access to it. If you too have concerns on this topic, we would like to hear from you by email at admin@napp.org.uk

6. Public asked for views on proposed changes to watershed on food adverts

The government is consulting on proposals to introduce a 9pm watershed on TV and online adverts for food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt. The restrictions would limit children’s exposure to advertising as part of efforts to tackle childhood obesity. Read more [here](#) where you can also respond online. **The closing date is 10th June 2019.**

7. Physiotherapists in general practice: fast support to overcome back pain

Tens of thousands of people have been helped to overcome back pain, arthritis and other muscle, bone and joint conditions without going to hospital, thanks to additional specialist care at local GP surgeries. Trials in 41 areas including Nottingham, West Cheshire and Gloucestershire have seen patients choosing to be assessed and treated for common musculoskeletal conditions by physiotherapists with enhanced skills based in GP practices, rather than waiting to see a GP to get a referral to hospital. [More...](#)

8. Anti-loneliness campaign launched

The sister of MP Jo Cox is backing an anti-loneliness campaign to help 30,000 people avoid health and wellbeing problems that can come from feeling and living alone. The campaign is one of a range of schemes being introduced as part of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) to support personalised care through the potential of people, families and communities. [More ...](#)

9. The state of aging in 2019

A report from the Centre for Ageing Better, an independent charitable foundation, brings together public data about work and finances, housing, health and communities. It reveals big differences in how people experience ageing depending on factors such as where they live, how much money they have or their sex or ethnicity. Today’s least well-off over 50s face far greater challenges than their wealthier peers and are more likely to die younger, become sicker earlier and fall out of work due to ill health. More [here](#)

10. Asthma UK’s campaign to stop asthma prescription charges

Asthma UK has conducted the largest ever survey carried out on prescription charges, engaging over 9,000 people. The [results](#) reveal many people with asthma are cutting back on their medication for financial reasons, with a dramatic impact on their health. In light of this evidence, Asthma UK is campaigning to stop asthma prescription charges.

11. N.A.P.P. website: Don’t miss out on this useful member benefit!

Our website Member pages contain **key resources available only to affiliated PPGs**. For login details, **visit the website, click on Members and use screen instructions**. We recommend each PPG to have a generic group email address as the username for the login.

12. Reminder: *Please email this bulletin to fellow members promptly. All previous bulletins can be found at <http://www.napp.org.uk/ebulletins.html>*

Edith Todd, Trustee, March 2019