

Public Health Bulletin. 05 08 2014

Produced by NHS libraries in Thames Valley and Wessex

Please find below a list of news items from the past fortnight that may be of interest to those involved in public health. This Bulletin provides topical news and reports of relevance to public health teams, community health practitioners and anyone with an interest in health promotion. All content and links are provided for information only and we do not sponsor, endorse or otherwise approve of any mentioned website or the contents of the news items. Please refer to the terms and conditions of the relevant website should you wish to reproduce any of the information.

Details of alternative current awareness services which cover more academic/specialist sources of information can be found in the section *Other Bulletins*. Your local NHS library service can assist you in accessing other current awareness services/tailored alerts, locating peer reviewed journal articles and answer any other queries you may have regarding finding information.

The information about each news item only gives a brief overview so we recommend you view the original source by clicking on the title (or Ctrl+Click in the word document).

Please contact your local NHS library service if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, or if you know of anyone else who would like to join the mailing list. The Bulletins are available on the Wessex Public Health Network website at:

<http://www.wessexphnetwork.org.uk/resources/public-health-updates.aspx>

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Alcohol misuse

[Alcohol Concern applaud Gary Lineker's criticism of alcohol sponsorship](#)

Monday 4th August 2014

Source: <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/>

Gary Lineker has been interviewed by Alcohol Concern Ambassador, Alastair Campbell in the September issue of GQ Magazine where alcohol sponsorship was one of a range of topics discussed.

[UKHF launches AlcoholHealthLink](#)

Friday 25th July 2014

Source: <http://www.ukhealthforum.org.uk>

The UK Health Forum (UKHF) has investigated the information needs and behaviour of those working in public health in order to better understand the barriers and facilitators in identifying and accessing evidence to enable evidence-based public health.

[Drinks giant Diageo ordered to remove advert](#)

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Source: <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/>

A complaint about irresponsible alcohol advertising been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

Black and ethnic minority groups

[CQC to support the NHS in tackling race inequality across the workforce](#)

Friday 1st August 2014

Source: <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

The NHS Equality and Diversity Council's plans, announced today, aim to make sure that employees from black and ethnic minority (BME) backgrounds have equal access to career opportunities and fair treatment across the NHS workplace.

Chronic conditions

[BMJ 'right' in statins claims row](#)

Friday 1st August 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

An investigation has backed the British Medical Journal's handling of two controversial and inaccurate articles it published on the harms of cholesterol-reducing statins.

Communicable diseases

[Ebola crisis: Infected doctor Kent Brantly lands in US](#)

Saturday 2nd August 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A US doctor infected with the deadly Ebola virus in Liberia has arrived in the US for treatment at a specialised unit in Atlanta, Georgia.

Call for 'radical action' on drug-resistant malaria

Wednesday 30th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Drug-resistant malaria is spreading in South East Asia, and has now reached the Cambodia-Thailand border, according to a study.

'Poor treatment for hepatitis C infection in UK'

Monday 28th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Official figures for England show just 3% of people who develop chronic hepatitis C each year receive treatment to help clear the virus.

Deadly MERS 'camel flu' may now be airborne

Thursday 24th July 2014

Source: <http://www.nhs.uk>

"Deadly Mers virus 'could now be airborne'," The Independent reports. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus, which has an estimated case fatality rate of 30%, has been detected in an air sample in a camel barn in Saudi Arabia. This raises the possibility the virus could be spread through the air in the same way as flu.

'Casual attitude' to vCJD warning

Thursday 24th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The government has developed a "casual attitude" to the human form of "mad cow disease", MPs have warned. The Science and Technology Committee said the low incidence of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) was being "used as justification for inaction". The committee highlighted concerns around the risk of contamination in blood donation and during surgery.

Diet & nutrition

Eating more than 5 a day 'brings no extra benefit'

Wednesday 30th July 2014

Source: <http://www.nhs.uk>

"Eating more than five a day has 'no extra health benefit'," reports The Independent. The paper reports on a review that combined the results of previous research looking at the effect of increasing the amount of fruit and vegetables people eat.

Drug Misuse

Heroin antidote Naloxone offers US hope against overdose

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Twenty-five states have approved the use of the drug Naloxone, either as an inhalant or an injection. Police officers use it on the street when they encounter an overdose, and family members of addicts have their own kits to try to prevent death in the home.

Emergency planning

[Ebola crisis: WHO to announce \\$100m emergency response](#)

Friday 1st August 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The head of the World Health Organization and leaders of West African nations affected by the Ebola outbreak are to announce a new \$100m (£59m; 75m euro) response plan.

Health promotion

[UKHF calls on Government to support a health-creating economy](#)

Friday 25th July 2014

Source: <http://www.ukhealthforum.org.uk>

Citing the rising global burden of NCDs, UKHF has laid-out a comprehensive call to the next Government to promote and support a health-creating economy in the UK.

Health protection

[Fist bumps 'cleaner than handshakes'](#)

Monday 28th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Sweaty palms, vice-like grips or the insufferable limp hand may be the least of your hand-shaking worries. Scientists at Aberystwyth University in Wales have shown that a shake transfers more bacteria than other forms of hand-on-hand action. They are calling for the widespread adoption of the fist bump instead, especially during flu outbreaks.

Health services administration

["Independence, accountability and trust": Three qualities for 'healthy regulation'](#)

Thursday 31st July 2014

Source: <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

CQC Chief Executive David Behan told a packed audience of government advisors, improvement partners, regulators, public representatives and others of the importance for CQC to be independent, accountable and trusted.

[Rise in NHS trusts in financial difficulties](#)

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Nineteen NHS trusts have been referred to ministers after auditors raised concerns about their financial health.

HIV & AIDS

[HIV drugs 'boost South African life expectancy'](#)

Friday 1st August 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Life expectancy in South Africa has increased dramatically over the last decade, mainly thanks to life-saving Aids drugs, a government report says.

Infant & child health

[A little video gaming 'linked to well-adjusted children'](#)

Monday 4th August 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Playing video games for a short period each day could have a small but positive impact on child development, a study by Oxford University suggests.

[The man who helped save 50 million lives](#)

Sunday 3rd August 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A solution of sugar, salts and water, many of which can be found in a kitchen cupboard, can be all it takes to save a child's life - and it has saved an estimated 50 million people. But finding the right balance was crucial - and Dr Norbert Hirschhorn played a key part.

[Healthy start for newborns safe in mothers' arms](#)

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A new study shows that newborn babies can reap the health benefits of a delay in cutting their umbilical cord - whilst they're safe in their mothers' arms.

Men's health

[Vaccinate boys as well as girls against HPV: it works, and it may be cost effective](#)

Tuesday 29th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bmj.com>

Protecting boys as well as girls by vaccinating against human papillomavirus may cut the incidence of genital warts and several cancers among both sexes, writes Gillian Prue

Mental health

[Middle-aged drinking 'impairs memory'](#)

Wednesday 30th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Problem drinking in middle age doubles the risk of memory loss in later life, research suggests.

[England records rise in dementia diagnoses](#)

Wednesday 30th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

The number of people in England diagnosed with dementia has risen by 62% over seven years.

[Sleep deprivation may affect memory](#)

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Source: <http://www.nhs.uk>

The Mail Online states that "just one bad night's sleep can have a dramatic effect on your memory – even leading to false memories". Though the results of this small experimental study involving US students are interesting, they're far from dramatic.

Obesity

Over one-in-10 Welsh children starting school obese

Thursday 31st July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

More than a quarter of Wales' four and five-year-olds are overweight - with more than one in 10 classed as obese, say public health officials.

Warning over waistline link to type 2 diabetes

Thursday 31st July 2014

Source: <http://www.nhs.uk>

"Belly fat clearest sign of type 2 diabetes risk," The Guardian reports. This comes as Public Health England publishes a report highlighting the links between bulging waistlines, obesity and type 2 diabetes risk.

Older people

Six seconds of exercise 'can transform health'

Sunday 27th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Short six-second bursts of vigorous exercise have the potential to transform the health of elderly people, say researchers in Scotland.

NHS 'should work more closely with hospices'

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Hospices could play a greater role in end-of-life care and stop hospitals being the "default option", says former Tory party leader Lord Howard.

Physical activity

Running 7 minutes a day 'halves heart death risk'

Tuesday 29th July 2014

Source: <http://www.nhs.uk>

"Running for just a few minutes each day can reduce the risk of dying from heart disease," The Guardian reports.

Prison health

Prison life

Tuesday 22nd July 2014

Source: <https://www.gov.uk>

Prisoners get the same healthcare and treatment as anyone outside of prison. Treatment is free but has to be approved by a prison doctor or member of the healthcare team.

Safety & accident prevention

HSE Chair on 40th Anniversary of Act

Tuesday 29th July 2014

Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

Great Britain has arguably the best health and safety system in the world. Of course, we all want to prevent even more deaths and serious injuries every year but many other parts of the world have death and injury rates many times higher than ours and are increasingly eager to learn about what makes our system so effective.

Screening

Study probes effect of NHS Health Checks

Friday 1st August 2014

Source: <http://www.nhs.uk>

"Health MOTs routinely offered to over-40s on the NHS may be a waste of time," the Mail Online reports. The report says researchers have found no difference in the prevalence of diseases such as diabetes in GP practices that offer NHS Health Checks and those that don't.

Sexual health

Sexual Health Week 2014

Source: <http://www.fpa.org.uk>

Sexual Health Week 2014 will take place from 15–21 September. This year it will be all about emergency contraception with lots of information for women on the choices available, as well as campaign packs for professionals to help you talk about emergency contraception with your patients. Watch this space for more information!

UK sperm bank to be opened in Birmingham

Sunday 3rd August 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A national sperm bank is to be set up to meet increasing demand and a UK-wide shortage. Heterosexual and same-sex couples will be able to use the service, as well as single women. People from ethnic minority backgrounds will be able to choose from culturally-matched donors.

Smoking

E-cigarettes 'less harmful' than cigarettes

Thursday 31st July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

E-cigarettes are likely to be much less harmful than conventional cigarettes, an analysis of current scientific research suggests.

Smoking, drinking and drug use down in young, report says

Thursday 24th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Smoking, drinking and drug use among secondary school pupils have more than halved over the past 10 years, figures from the Health and Social Care Information Centre suggest (HSCIC).

Social & economic issues

Chicken factory probe ordered by health secretary

Friday 25th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

An investigation into allegations of hygiene failings at poultry processing factories has been ordered by Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

Pilgrimages may offer clue to antibiotic resistance spread

Thursday 24th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Pilgrimages are common around the world. They are a key part of culture. But recent research has shown that there may be a hidden danger. As more people gather, and the local infrastructure is exceeded, there is an increased risk that antibiotic resistance genes can spread between pilgrims. Tushar Banerjee visited Rishikesh in the Upper Ganges to learn more about the work.

Statistics

Victorian-era diseases 'returning'

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

Diseases traditionally associated with the Victorian era are on the rise again in England, experts are warning. The Health and Social Care Information Centre highlighted increases in gout, malnutrition and tuberculosis. It said while they were not as widespread as they had been in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the fact they were returning needed to be addressed.

Women's health

Combined Pill may raise breast cancer risk

Friday 1st August 2014

Source: <http://www.nhs.uk>

"Some contraceptive pills double risk of breast cancer," The Daily Telegraph reports, as a new US study found an increased risk of 50% with use of the combined oral contraceptive pill, commonly called "the pill".

Two bailed in FGM probe after man and girl stopped at Heathrow

Sunday 27th July 2014

A man and a woman have been bailed after being arrested in London for conspiracy to commit female genital mutilation (FGM).

Breast cancer: One-shot therapy gets NHS nod

Friday 25th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

A pioneering breast cancer treatment that replaces weeks of radiotherapy with a single, targeted shot is set to be offered on the NHS.

Workplace health

British workplaces among safest in the world

Monday 28th July 2014

Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

The number of people who lose their lives at work has dropped sharply by 85 per cent over the past forty years, from over 650 every year in 1974 to a record low of 133 today, new figures reveal.

'Body of evidence' shift work detrimental to health

Friday 25th July 2014

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk>

There is a growing body of evidence that doing shift work is detrimental to our health, the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health's Jane White has said. Her comments come as findings in Occupational and Environmental Medicine show Type 2 diabetes is more common in people who work shifts.

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Other Bulletins

Big Four Bulletin

This is a weekly Bulletin that details original articles in the BMJ, JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine and The Lancet.

<http://cash.libraryservices.nhs.uk/cash-service/rss-newsfeed-menu/medicine/big-four-bulletin/>

Daily Health Bulletin

The Daily Health Bulletin is produced by the Knowledge Service of the West and South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Commissioning Support Unit.

<http://cash.libraryservices.nhs.uk/cash-service/daily-health-bulletin/>

NICE Public Health Awareness Bulletin

This is a monthly update highlighting national public health news and information from NICE.

<https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/about-evidence-services/bulletins-and-alerts/whats-new-in-public-health/public-health-bulletin-archive>

PHE Bulletin (Public Health England)

The PHE Bulletin is issued monthly and contains public health news and information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/phe-bulletin>

Public Health and Social Care Bulletin

This is published weekly and created by Kent & Medway Public Health Observatory. It provides an update on what is new in public health and social care, both nationally and locally.

<http://www.kmpho.nhs.uk/events-and-updates/bulletins/bulletins-archive/>