

Public Health Bulletin 22nd July 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 on the afternoon of Tuesday 22 July 2014.

This service, in collaboration with other health libraries in Thames Valley & Wessex, provides topical news and reports of relevance to public health teams, community health practitioners and anyone with an interest in health promotion.

Please contact me 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 also available on the Wessex Public Health Network website at:

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

Alcohol misuse

[New Responsibility Deal alcohol pledges published](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

Source: Dept of Health*: <http://www.gov.uk>

The Responsibility Deal Alcohol Network has a new set of alcohol pledges which tackle alcohol misuse and promote responsible drinking.

Black and ethnic minority groups

[Islamic group's health advice over Ramadan fasting](#)

Thursday 10 July 2014

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

One of the UK's leading Islamic groups says it is concerned that Muslims who fast during the month of Ramadan despite being ill are putting their health at risk.

Chronic conditions

[More weight loss operations for diabetes](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

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

An expansion of weight loss surgery in England is being proposed to tackle an epidemic of type 2 diabetes.

[Offer weight loss surgery to diabetics, says NICE](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

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

"An expansion of weight loss surgery in England is being proposed to tackle an epidemic of type 2 diabetes," BBC News reports. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recommended obese people with type 2 diabetes should be offered weight loss (bariatric) surgery.

Pre-diabetes label 'worthless', researchers claim

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

Labelling people as having pre-diabetes is "unhelpful and unnecessary", researchers claim.

Prediabetes label unhelpful, experts argue

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

"Pre-diabetes label 'worthless', researchers claim," reports the BBC. The headline is based on an opinion piece published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) by John Yudkin and Victor Montori, both of whom are professors of medicine.

Protein may help control diabetes symptoms

Thursday 17 July 2014

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

"Diabetes could be cured 'in single jab'," is the misleading headline in the Daily Express. The news comes from an exciting new mouse study which found promising results for a treatment for type 2 diabetes.

One in three Alzheimer's cases preventable, says research

Monday 14 July 2014

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

One in three cases of Alzheimer's disease worldwide is preventable, according to research from the University of Cambridge.

'Exercise may help prevent Alzheimer's disease'

Monday 14 July 2014

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

"Cut Alzheimer's risk by walking," the Daily Mail recommends. This advice is prompted by a statistical modelling study looking at population attributable risks (PARS) – factors known to influence the prevalence of a disease, such as Alzheimer's, at a population level.

Woman was diagnosed with dementia on 55th birthday

Tuesday 15 July 2014

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

A woman with dementia has spoken about how she was diagnosed with the condition on her 55th birthday.

Statins: Millions more to get drugs in controversial plans

Friday 18 July 2014

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

Doctors have been told to offer cholesterol-lowering statins to millions more people in a massive and controversial expansion in prescribing.

'More adults should be taking statins,' says NICE

Friday 18 July 2014

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

"Doctors have been told to offer cholesterol-lowering statins to millions more people," BBC News reports.

Probiotics may improve blood pressure

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

"Eating probiotics may lower blood pressure," The Daily Telegraph reports.

Communicable diseases

Malaria parasite 'gets down to the bone'

Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

Malaria parasites can hide inside the bone marrow and evade the body's defences, research confirms. The discovery could lead to new drugs or vaccines to block transmission.

Malaria parasites can 'hide' inside bone marrow

Thursday 10 July 2014

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

"Malaria parasites can hide inside the bone marrow and evade the body's defences, research confirms," BBC News report.

First dengue vaccine 'shows promise'

Friday 11 July 2014

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

Scientists say they have developed the world's first vaccine against dengue fever seen to work in large-scale trials. Research in the Lancet journal suggests more than 50% of children who are given the vaccine are protected against the disease.

Diet & nutrition

Medical meals: Using food to diagnose disease

Friday 11 July 2014

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

Cafe au lait, port wine and anchovy sauce all help doctors diagnose disease.

Study sparks organic foods debate

Saturday 12 July 2014

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

A new scientific review claims organic foods are higher in nutrients and lower in pesticides compared with conventionally grown varieties.

[Can healthy eating be forced on children?](#)

Friday 18 July 2014

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

First Lady Michelle Obama has been at the forefront of the campaign to change school meals in America and fight childhood obesity. But can you force children to eat healthily?

Disability

[Assistance dogs: How to spot them](#)

Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

Ever seen someone with an assistance dog at a checkout queue and wondered what it does? Here is a photo guide to help you identify some of the dogs that are out there working at the moment.

[Do disabled children miss out on PE?](#)

Monday 21 July 2014

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

PE provision for children with disabilities in mainstream schools is lacking and could damage Britain's Paralympic prospects in the future, according to a survey carried out by the Youth Sport Trust.

Drug Misuse

[Synthetic cannabis 'not medicinal', EU top court says](#)

Thursday 10 July 2014

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

The EU's top court says designer drugs that mimic cannabis, which are already illegal in many countries, cannot be classed as medicinal.

Health services administration

[Frail need joint health and care budget, says NHS boss](#)

Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

Vulnerable patients should be offered their own personal health and care budgets, the NHS England boss says.

[Fears raised 'free NHS' will come to an end](#)

Thursday 10 July 2014

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

Fears are being raised that the NHS in England will no longer be free at the point of use within 10 years. Nearly half of the 78 health and care leaders surveyed by the Nuffield Trust felt the status quo would not remain because of the squeeze on funding.

[One in four 'unaware of GP out-of-hours care'](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

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

One in four people has not heard of out-of-hours GP services, figures show.

[Could the future hospital be in the home?](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

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

High-speed online access has radically changed consumer shopping habits and transformed the economics of industries like banking and retail.

[Migrants must pay more to use NHS, say ministers](#)

Monday 14 July 2014

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

Patients from outside the EU are to be charged 150% of the cost of treatment in the NHS in a fresh crackdown on so-called "health tourism".

[Social media 'fuel rise in complaints against doctors'](#)

Monday 21 July 2014

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

A rise in complaints against doctors reflects the role of social media and negative press coverage of the medical profession, according to a report commissioned by the General Medical Council.

HIV & AIDS

[HIV re-emerges in 'cured' Mississippi girl](#)

Thursday 10 July 2014

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

A baby girl in the US born with HIV and believed cured after very early treatment has now been found to still harbour the virus.

[Healthy gay men urged to take HIV drugs - WHO](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

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

The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging all sexually active gay men to take antiretroviral drugs to reduce the spread of HIV.

[Call for better education on HIV and Aids after survey](#)

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

There's a call for teenagers to be given clearer education on how they can catch HIV and Aids.

[Aids epidemic under control by 2030 'is possible'](#)

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

There is a chance the Aids epidemic can be brought under control by 2030, according to a report by the United Nations Aids agency.

[Early HIV drugs 'may not stop virus'](#)

Monday 21 July 2014

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

HIV can rapidly form invulnerable strongholds in the body, dashing hopes that early treatment might cure the virus, according to new research.

[Worry over effectiveness of early HIV drugs](#)

Monday 21 July 2014

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

"Early HIV drugs 'may not stop virus'," BBC News reports. The report is based on a study of HIV treatments in monkeys, and has been linked by the BBC to the emergence of HIV in a four-year-old girl thought to have been cured of the virus as the result of treatment from birth – the so-called "Mississippi girl".

['Exciting' drug flushes out HIV](#)

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

Scientists say they have made an "exciting" step towards curing HIV by forcing the virus out of hiding.

Infant & child health

[TB rates in children 'much higher than WHO estimates'](#)

Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

More than 650,000 children worldwide develop tuberculosis each year, research in the journal Lancet Global Health suggests. The figure stands almost 25% higher than current predictions made by the World Health Organization.

[Cooling babies 'helps reduce longer-term brain damage'](#)

Thursday 10 July 2014

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

Cooling babies deprived of oxygen at birth improves their chances of growing up without disabilities such as cerebral palsy, research suggests.

[Beds shortage for child mental health patients](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

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

NHS England says it does not know how many hospital beds are needed to deal with increasing demand for children's mental health services.

[Spoons lead to inaccurate medicine doses for kids](#)

Tuesday 15 July 2014

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

"Using a spoon to measure medicine for children can lead to potentially dangerous dosing mistakes," the Daily Mail reports.

[Change4Life and Disney launch summer 10 Minute Shake Up campaign](#)

Tuesday 15 July 2014

Source: PHE*: <http://www.gov.uk>

Campaign aims to get kids across the country moving for an extra 100 million minutes this summer.

[Steroid asthma inhalers restrict children's growth](#)

Thursday 17 July 2014

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

"Children who use inhalable steroids for asthma grow slower than their peers in the first year of taking the medication," The Guardian reports. While this is an accurate report of the science, the effect found by researchers was small.

Men's health

[Cycling linked to prostate cancer, but not infertility](#)

Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

"Men who cycle more than nine hours a week are ... more likely to develop prostate cancer," the Mail Online inaccurately reports. The story comes from the publication of an online survey into cycling in the UK and its effects on health outcomes.

[Vasectomy-associated prostate cancer risk 'small'](#)

Friday 11 July 2014

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

"Men who have the snip increase their risk of suffering fatal prostate cancer, according to research," the Daily Mail reports. However, while the increase in risk was found to be statistically significant, it was small in absolute terms.

[Miscarriage partners 'often feel ignored and invisible'](#)

Monday 21 July 2014

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

Losing a baby early in pregnancy is a distressing event that many women go through. But how do their partners cope with the emotional impact of miscarriage?

Mental health

[Young people explain psychosis on film](#)

Saturday 12 July 2014

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

In a new YouTube video by 25-year-old filmmaker John Richardson, he and two other young people recount their personal stories of psychosis and the help they received from a mental health service for young people where they live in Sussex.

[Mental health job support scheme piloted](#)

Sunday 13 July 2014

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

The government is piloting ways to get more people with mental health problems into work by combining earlier treatment with employment support.

'Eighty new genes linked to schizophrenia'

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

Scientists have uncovered 80 previously unknown genes which may put people at risk of developing schizophrenia, research in Nature suggests.

Dr David Crepaz-Keay: The stigma of schizophrenia

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

New treatments for schizophrenia could be possible as vital clues behind the factors causing the mental illness are discovered.

Study offers insight into genetics of schizophrenia

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

"More than 100 schizophrenia genes have been pinpointed," reports the Daily Mail. In one of the largest studies of its kind, researchers have gained further insights into the genetics of the condition, which it is hoped could lead to new treatments.

Obesity

Obesity link for siblings

Thursday 10 July 2014

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

"Children are five times more likely to become obese if their older brother or sister is overweight," reports the Daily Mail. There is a widespread assumption that a significant risk factor for child obesity is if they have one or both parents who are obese.

Obese women 'show signs of food learning impairment'

Friday 18 July 2014

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

Obese women may have a "food learning impairment" that could explain their attitude to food, research from Yale School of Medicine suggests.

Obese women may have 'food learning impairment'

Friday 18 July 2014

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

"Obese women show signs of food learning impairment," is the headline on the BBC News website.

Older people

Special measures scheme for failing care homes

Wednesday 16 July 2014

Source: Dept of Health*: <http://www.gov.uk>

Special measures regime to be introduced for care homes, as a similar scheme for hospitals show improvements.

Oral health

[Warning over children's dental health](#)

Sunday 13 July 2014

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

Nearly 500 young children a week are being admitted to hospital to have rotten teeth removed, and according to NHS figures tooth decay is now the main reason that 5 to 9 year olds in England are treated in hospital.

[Dental charity blames bad baby teeth on 'child neglect'](#)

Monday 14 July 2014

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

Child neglect is to blame for "absolutely appalling" levels of children needing their teeth pulled in hospital, a charity says.

Physical activity

[Owning a dog may make older adults fitter](#)

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

"Want to appear 10 years younger? Just buy a dog," is the dubious claim on the Mail Online. A study has found a link between dog ownership and increased physical activity in older adults, but how this is linked to looking younger is unclear.

Safety & accident prevention

[Sensible health and safety management in schools](#)

Wednesday 16 July 2014

Source: HSE*: www.hse.gov.uk

A sensible approach to health and safety in schools means focusing on how the real risks are managed. The guidance on this series of webpages will help those responsible for managing health and safety in schools to strike the right balance, so that the real risks are managed and learning opportunities are experienced to the full.

Sexual health

[Scientists probe 'sex addict' brains](#)

Saturday 12 July 2014

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

The first study to investigate brain activity in "sex addicts" has uncovered remarkable similarities with people addicted to drugs.

[Sex addiction affects brain in 'same way as drugs'](#)

Monday 14 July 2014

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

"Is compulsive sexual behaviour comparable to drug addiction?" asked The Guardian today. This and other related headlines came from a UK study that looked at brain scans of 19 men with compulsive sexual behaviour (CSB) while they watched either sexually explicit, erotic or non-sexual videos.

[Chlamydia screening and condom schemes encourage safer sexual behaviour in young adults](#)

Monday 14 July 2014

Source: PHE*: <http://www.gov.uk>

PHE launches 2 new publications today focused on encouraging safer sexual behaviour in young adults.

Smoking

[Study explores effect of plain cigarette packs](#)

Tuesday 15 July 2014

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

"Long-term smokers find the taste of plain-packaged cigarettes worse than that of branded cigarettes," The Guardian reports. The news comes from Australian research into the impact of plain packaging and health risk warnings on packets of cigarettes and anti-smoking TV adverts.

[Government consults on ending smoking in cars carrying children](#)

Tuesday 15 July 2014

Source: Dept of Health*: <http://www.gov.uk>

The consultation seeks views on draft regulations that would prohibit smoking in private vehicles carrying children.

[CIEH backs prohibition on smoking in cars carrying children](#)

Wednesday 16 July 2014

Source: CIEH: <http://www.cieh.org>

The government is proceeding with the introduction of regulations and is seeking views on draft regulations before they are made.

Social & economic issues

[Assisted dying: One family's experience](#)

Saturday 12 July 2014

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

[Assisted dying: Desmond Tutu signals support](#)

Sunday 13 July 2014

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

[Stephen Hawking: Why I support Assisted Dying](#)

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

[Assisted dying: What do disabled people think?](#)

Thursday 17 July 2014

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

[Care minister Norman Lamb backs assisted dying bill](#)

Thursday 17 July 2014

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

[Actor Patrick Stewart joins campaign for 'assisted dying'](#)

Friday 18 July 2014

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

[Analysis: Assisted dying debate](#)

Friday 18 July 2014

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

[Assisted dying law would lessen suffering says Falconer](#)

Friday 18 July 2014

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

[Assisted dying bill passes first political hurdle](#)

Saturday 19 July 2014

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

Women's health

Blood infection warning for new mums

Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

Pregnant women and new mothers need closer attention for signs of potentially fatal sepsis, a study says. Most women recover with antibiotics but signs of severe sepsis should be regarded as a medical emergency, say University of Oxford researchers.

Call to tackle maternal blood infection risk

Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

"Pregnant women and new mothers need closer attention for signs of potentially fatal sepsis, a study says," reports BBC News.

ONS: Mothers' average age hits 30

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

The trend towards older motherhood is continuing - with the average age of mothers in England and Wales reaching 30 for the first time.

Continuation of whooping cough vaccination programme in pregnancy advised

Wednesday 16 July 2014

Source: PHE & DOH*: <http://www.gov.uk>

New evidence on vaccine effectiveness and safety published alongside latest data on whooping cough cases.

Whooping cough: Pregnancy jab plans extended

Wednesday 16 July 2014

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

Pregnant women in the UK are to be routinely vaccinated against whooping cough to protect babies.

Extra FGM training for public sector staff

Monday 21 July 2014

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

Extra training is to be given to teachers, doctors and social workers to help them to identify and assist girls at risk of female genital mutilation.

Anatomy of female genital mutilation

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

New measures to tackle FGM

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

Nick Clegg vows action to stop female genital mutilation

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

FGM summit: Parents to be prosecuted under new measures

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

Workplace health

[Do you need a mental health first aider in the office?](#)

Tuesday 22 July 2014

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

Charlotte Walker trains people to be the go-to person in the office if someone gets badly stressed or has a meltdown.

Other relevant bulletins – in order to avoid duplication we leave DH and NICE publication to Public Health Awareness Bulletins.

Other South East Public Health news update services:		
Title	Focus areas	Contact details/ Website
NICE Public Health Awareness Bulletins:	A monthly update containing 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
Health Intelligence Bulletin	Fortnightly email update containing public health news, publications and information from government and other relevant websites.	Jill Rutland Kent & Medway Public Health Network jill.rutland@nhs.net

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