

Public Health Bulletin. 5 May 2015

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 also available on the Thames Valley Public Health Network at:
<http://phabtv.net/bulletins/> and the Wessex Public Health Network at:
<http://www.wessexphnetwork.org.uk/resources/public-health-updates.aspx>

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Alcohol misuse

Alcohol detox centre 'saves NHS millions'

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

The NHS could save £27m a year by changing the way it deals with alcoholic patients, new research seen by the Victoria Derbyshire programme suggests. We spent a week in a unit which is pioneering a different approach.

Drink responsibly messages “failing consumers”

Wednesday 29 April 2015 Source: Alcohol Concern: <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk>

New research from Alcohol Concern suggests 'drink responsibly' messages appearing in alcohol adverts are being used by the alcohol industry to promote their brands rather than to help consumers make sensible choices about their drinking.

Chronic conditions

Athlete's foot cream could also treat multiple sclerosis

Wednesday 22 April 2015

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

"Two common drugs – one used for treating athlete's foot and another for alleviating eczema – may be useful therapies for multiple sclerosis," BBC News reports. The drugs have shown promise in lab and animal studies.

New asthma treatment within five years, researchers hope

Thursday 23 April 2015

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

"Asthma cure could be in reach," The Independent reports. Researchers have discovered that protein molecules called calcium-sensing receptors play a pivotal role in asthma. Drugs known to block these proteins already exist.

Bowel cancers 'spotted too late'

Wednesday 22 April 2015

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

Thousands of people in England are dying from bowel cancer because their disease is not being spotted early enough, a charity has warned. Beating Bowel Cancer found wide variation within the NHS in England in diagnosing the disease.

RCGP response Cancer Research UK study into the benefits of exercise for people recovering from bowel cancer

Wednesday 29 April 2015

Source: Royal College of General Practitioners: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

Dr Richard Roope, Cancer Lead for the Royal College of GPs, has responded to a Cancer Research UK study, published in BMJ Open today [Wednesday 29 April].

Skin cancer cases in Scotland rise by almost a third

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

Cases of skin cancer in Scotland have increased by more than 30% in the past decade, according to latest NHS figures.

Most Britons unaware of skin cancer signs - survey

Monday 4 May 2015

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

More than three-quarters of Britons say they would not recognise signs of skin cancer, a survey by the British Association of Dermatologists suggests. The disease now causes about 2,100 deaths annually in the UK.

Skin cancer: 'No such thing as a healthy tan'

Monday 4 May 2015

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

Doctors are warning that unpredictability in the British weather could mean people are not protecting themselves against the sun.

The C-Word: Film will be 'lasting legacy' for family

Monday 4 May 2015

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

The brother of author Lisa Lynch, who wrote a candid book and blog about her battle with breast cancer, has said a TV drama on her life will be "a lasting legacy".

Heart failure drug digoxin linked to premature death

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

"A heart drug taken by 250,000 Britons can actually hasten death," the Mail Online warns today. An analysis of previous research on digoxin, used to treat heart failure and heart rhythm abnormalities, suggests that it can raise the risk of premature death.

Communicable diseases

Mosquitoes 'lured by body odour genes'

Thursday 23 April 2015

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

The likelihood of being bitten by mosquitoes could be down to genes that control our body odour, a preliminary study in Plos One suggests. Researchers tested pairs of identical and non-identical twins to see how attractive they were to mosquitoes.

A magnet for mosquitoes? Blame your genes

Thursday 23 April 2015

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

"Mosquitoes 'lured by body odour genes,'" BBC News reports. Researchers tested a series of non-identical and identical twins, and found identical twins had similar levels of attractiveness to mosquitoes.

New malaria vaccine could be available in months

Friday 24 April 2015

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

Final clinical trials of a malaria vaccine - the first to reach this stage - suggest it could help protect millions of children against malaria.

Most countries not protecting antibiotics, says WHO

Wednesday 29 April 2015

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

Three-quarters of countries do not have plans in place to preserve antimicrobial medicines, the World Health Organization says.

Diet & nutrition

Diet swap experiment reveals junk food's harm to gut

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

A two-week diet swap experiment hints at just how damaging a Western diet might be to our guts.

Brain's 'hunger hub' could be switched off

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

"Have scientists found a way to banish hunger pangs?," the Mail Online asks. The question is prompted by research in mice looking at the "biological pathways" that regulate appetite and hunger.

Diet swap study highlights bowel effects of western-style diet

Wednesday 29 April 2015

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

"Diet swap experiment reveals junk food's harm to guts," BBC News reports.

MEPs add to alcohol calorie label calls

Wednesday 29 April 2015

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

MEPs have backed calls for calorie labels to be put on all alcoholic drinks in a vote at the European Parliament.

Replacing sugary drinks with water may reduce diabetes risk

Friday 1 May 2015

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

"Swapping orange squash for a cup of tea cuts diabetes risk," The Daily Telegraph reports.

Great Gut Extinction: Has modern life destroyed our health?

Sunday 3 May 2015

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

Our modern lifestyle is often blamed for the explosion in conditions like asthma, diabetes and obesity - but the evidence that our predecessors didn't suffer such ailments has been hard to come by - until now.

'Diet pill' warning: I felt like I was on fire

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

Global police forces are working together to try to prevent the supply of so-called "diet pills" which can be deadly.

Fruit sugars 'may worsen food cravings'

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

Fructose, the sugar found in fruit, may increase cravings for high-calorie foods, according to researchers.

Disability

Tinnitus mapped inside human brain

Thursday 23 April 2015

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

For the first time, signals relating to the constant ringing noise of tinnitus have been mapped across the brain of a patient undergoing surgery. In this rare case, a man with tinnitus was being monitored to trace his epileptic seizures, with 164 electrodes placed directly onto his brain.

Drug Misuse

Third of drug deaths in Scotland were parents

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

More than a third (36%) of drug-death victims in 2013 were parents or parental figures, according to analysis of official figures.

Environmental health

Air pollution linked to silent strokes

Friday 24 April 2015

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

"Adults who live in towns and cities suffer ageing of the brain and increased risk of dementia and [silent] strokes because of air pollution," The Daily Telegraph reports.

Children monitored to gauge pollution impact

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

A multimillion pound study has been launched to assess the impact of the environment on the health and development of children.

Emergency planning

Global health: How prepared are we for the next crisis?

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

It has now been over a year since the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was first reported and it has since gone on to become the deadliest occurrence of the disease since its discovery in 1976, claiming the lives of more than 10,000 people. So what has the outbreak taught us and how prepared are we for the next global health crisis?

Health services administration

Private GP out-of-hours care 'worse'

Friday 1 May 2015

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

GP out-of-hours services provided by commercial companies perform slightly worse than NHS or not-for-profit equivalents, an analysis indicates.

HIV & AIDS

HIV home test kit goes on sale in UK

Monday 27 April 2015

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

The first legally approved HIV self-test kit that allows people to get a result in 15 minutes at home has gone on sale in England, Scotland and Wales.

Infant & child health

Parents 'may pass anxiety on to their children'

Monday 27 April 2015

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

The Mail Online has given stressed-out parents one more thing to worry about, saying: "Anxiety is 'catching' and can be passed on to children", adding that, "Attitudes of over-anxious parents can severely affect children's behaviour".

No evidence organic milk in pregnancy lowers a baby's IQ

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

"Pregnant women who switch to 'healthier' organic milk may be putting the brain development of their unborn babies at risk," The Guardian reports after researchers found organic milk had lower levels of iodine than standard milk.

Cancer survival for children in England: children followed up to 2013

Tuesday 28 April 2015

Source: Office of National Statistics*: <https://www.gov.uk>

5-year survival for children aged 0-14 years, by age at diagnosis, and age-standardised survival for all ages combined.

Bullying may have worse long-term effects than child abuse

Wednesday 29 April 2015

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

"Bullied children are five times more at risk of anxiety than those maltreated," reports the Daily Mail. A study looking at both UK and US children found an association between childhood bullying and anxiety, depression and self-harm in adulthood.

Urgent shake up of children's unscheduled care needed to tackle UK's poor child health outcomes

Wednesday 29 April 2015

Source: Royal College of General Practitioners: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

Nurses, GPs and Paediatricians launch new standards to improve unscheduled care for children. Children make up more than a quarter of emergency department attendances in the UK and in England alone there has been a 28% increase in admissions for children to hospital over the last ten years. Today healthcare professionals are warning that unless there is an overhaul of unscheduled care services, there is a risk that growing demand will result in poorer outcomes for children.

Men's health

Men 'catching up' on life expectancy

Thursday 30 April 2015

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

Men are narrowing the gap on women when it comes to life expectancy in England and Wales, research in the Lancet indicates. It predicts by 2030 men will be living 85.7 years on average - just two fewer than women.

Mental health

Mental health patients travelling up to 79 miles for bed 'not acceptable'

Saturday 2 May 2015

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

Mental health patients having to travel as far as 79 miles (127km) for a bed is "not acceptable", the charity Mind has said.

Mental health spending cuts forecast

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

Mental health trusts in England are forecasting significant cuts to their funding over the next four years, figures seen by the BBC suggest.

Obesity

Exercise 'not key to obesity fight'

Thursday 23 April 2015

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

Physical activity has little role in tackling obesity - and instead public health messages should squarely focus on unhealthy eating, doctors say. In an editorial in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, three international experts said it was time to "bust the myth" about exercise.

'Two phases' of childhood obesity suggested

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

There may be two distinct child obesity epidemics - one among infants and one among adolescents - research suggests.

'World's fattest man' Paul Mason ready for New York surgery

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

A man once dubbed the world's fattest has said having a fiancée has given him new responsibility and fear as he waits for life-changing weight loss surgery.

Older people

More older carers 'risking health'

Thursday 30 April 2015

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

The number of older carers in England is rising, with signs the pressures of looking after loved ones is damaging their health, research suggests. The warning by Age UK and Carers UK came as the charities released figures showing there were 1.2m carers over 65 - a 25% rise in the past decade.

UK life expectancy expected to rise to late 80s by 2030

Thursday 30 April 2015

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

"Life expectancy is rising faster than thought, with 90 expected to become the norm in some affluent areas of the country by 2030," The Guardian reports. The same predictions led the Daily Mail to warn of a "life expectancy timebomb".

Screening

Blood test 'boost' in ovarian cancer fight

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

Regular blood tests can detect 86% of ovarian cancers before the point at which women normally would be diagnosed, according to a trial that could lead to national screening.

Smoking

Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England: Apr to Dec 2014

Thursday 23 April 2015

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre*: <https://www.gov.uk>

[This report] presents provisional results from the monitoring of the NHS Stop Smoking Services in England. This report includes information on the number of people setting a quit date and the number who successfully quit at the four week follow-up.

Social & economic issues

Updated guidance for professionals who provide care after death

Wednesday 22 April 2015

Source: Royal College of General Practitioners: <http://www.rcgp.org.uk>

The second edition of guidance for the wide range of staff responsible for care after death is launched today. It aims to help ensure that a person who has died is cared for and that there is well co-ordinated support which respects the wishes of the deceased and their families.

'Culture war' of gay conversion therapy

Thursday 23 April 2015

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

Gay conversion therapy is a fiercely contested topic - advocates claim it's not harmful but it has been condemned by UK health organisations. Here two men who have undergone treatment outline their opposing views.

Assisted suicide review granted by High Court judges

Tuesday 28 April 2015

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

Disability rights campaigners who say assisted suicide policy in England and Wales is too "liberal" have won permission to bring a legal challenge.

CQC supports new online resource to help improve adult social care

Tuesday 28 April 2015

Source: Care Quality Commission: <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

People who manage and use adult social care services can now find help to improve their services through a new and easy-to-use online resource.

Women's health

Coffee could make breast cancer drug tamoxifen more effective

Wednesday 22 April 2015

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

"A cancer-killing cocktail of the hormone drug tamoxifen and two coffees every day was found to reduce the risk of [breast cancer] tumours returning," the Mail Online reports. The same study also found evidence that caffeine slowed the cancer's growth.

New test could improve diagnosis of ovarian cancer

Tuesday 5 May 2015

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

"New ovarian cancer test twice as effective as existing methods," The Guardian reports, after new research proved relatively successful in diagnosing ovarian cancer.

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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/>

Healthcare Public Health

Monthly bulletin containing news and information about key public health issues including health service commissioning, updates from Public Health England, local authorities, Faculty of Public Health and others agencies, resources and good practice.

<http://www.healthcarepublichealth.net/newsletters.php>

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/>