

Public Health Bulletin. 16 June 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://phabbtv.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

[The stigma of alcohol addiction](#)

5th June 2015

Source: Alcohol Concern

www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

Jackie Ballard, Chief Executive of Alcohol Concern and a former Parliamentary colleague of Charles Kennedy said: "There is still a great deal of stigma around alcohol addiction, which can affect people from all walks of life and social standing. "Hopefully, the love and affection following Charles' tragic and too early death can remove some of this stigma and prompt us to reflect on the way we talk about alcohol harms.

Black and ethnic minority groups

[Athletes Colin Jackson and Donovan Bailey urge prostate cancer 'fear factor'](#)

15th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Former athletes Colin Jackson and Donovan Bailey say black men need the "fear factor" to ensure they take prostate cancer seriously. Current figures suggest one in eight men in the UK will develop the disease at some stage of their life - but for black men of African and Caribbean descent, it is one in four.

Chronic conditions

[Potential breakthrough for osteoporosis announced](#)

15th June 2015

Source: NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/news

"Bone could be regrown to treat osteoporosis after breakthrough," The Daily Telegraph reports. This headline follows the development of a new drug that may increase bone formation, which could potentially combat osteoporosis. But this has only been tested in the lab so far and has not yet been proven to work in humans.

[Scientists find CJD resistance gene](#)

11th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Researchers have identified a gene that might make people resistant to the brain eating disease CJD. The study is part of an effort to find ways of combating a possible epidemic caused by eating BSE infected beef in the 1980s. It is claimed that the findings could give important insight into other human brain diseases that lead to dementia.

[Breast cancer 'tumour trigger' that spreads disease discovered](#)

9th June 2015

Source: NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/news

"Experts have identified a 'trigger' which enables breast cancer cells to spread," the Daily Mirror reports. The trigger – a protein called CCL3 – appears to help cancerous cells spread into the lungs. The hope is that targeting the protein could help prevent any spread and reduce the number of deaths from breast cancer.

Communicable diseases

[South Korea begins plasma treatment trial for Mers](#)

16th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

South Korea is to begin trials of an experimental plasma treatment for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (Mers) which has now killed 19 people. The treatment - which has already proved useful for tackling other deadly diseases, including Ebola - uses blood from patients who have successfully fought off the same infection.

Half 'have natural flu protection'

15th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Nearly half of people already have some defences that can prevent flu taking hold, research suggests. Tests on 1,414 people showed that part of the immune system - called T-cells - was able to attack regions of the virus that were common to many different strains of flu. The team at University College London says it may be possible to develop a "universal flu vaccine".

South Korea hospital 'is source of many Mers cases'

14th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

A hospital has suspended most of its services after being identified as the source of almost half the cases in the South Korean outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (Mers).

Juvenile camels 'key source' of Mers

12th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Camels aged less than four years might be a major source of Mers, according to new research. An international team looked for evidence of current or past infection in more than 800 dromedary camels. They found that more than 90% of animals became infected by the age of two and virus shedding was more common in calves than in adults. The scientists argue that changes in animal husbandry may reduce the occurrence of human Mers infections.

Diet & nutrition

Eating chocolate linked to 'lower heart disease and stroke risk'

16th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Eating a moderate amount of chocolate a day has been linked to a lowered risk of heart disease and stroke. University of Aberdeen experts looked at the eating habits of more than 20,000 middle-aged and elderly people. They concluded that compared to those who ate no chocolate, those who ate up to a small bar a day had an 11% lesser risk of cardiovascular disease and a 23% reduced risk of stroke.

Nuts 'protect against early death'

11th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Eating half a handful of nuts every day could substantially lower the risk of early death, a Dutch study suggests. Previous studies had already indicated a link with cardiovascular health, but this is the first to look at specific nuts and diseases. Maastricht University

researchers found a 23% lower chance of death during the 10-year study in people eating at least 10g (0.3oz) of nuts or peanuts a day.

Disability

[Virtual reality helps stroke patients use weakened limbs](#)

9th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Virtual reality could help stroke patients recover by "tricking" them into thinking their affected limb is more accurate than it really is. Researchers in Spain found that making the affected limb appear more effective on screen increased the chance the patient would use it in real life. This is important because stroke victims often underuse their affected limbs, making them even weaker.

[Artificial leg allows patient to feel](#)

8th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Scientists in Austria have created an artificial leg which allows the amputee to feel lifelike sensations from their foot. The recipient, Wolfgang Rangger, who lost his right leg in 2007, said: "It feels like I have a foot again. It's like a second lease of life." Prof Hubert Egger of the University of Linz, said sensors fitted to the sole of the artificial foot, stimulated nerves at the base of the stump.

Drug Misuse

[Chief Medical Officer calls for medicines review to restore public trust](#)

16th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

The chief medical officer for England has called for an independent review of the safety and efficacy of medicines. Dame Sally Davies is worried that recent controversies over the use of medicines have damaged faith in the way research is carried out and presented.

[Unsafe asthma prescribing 'must end'](#)

16th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

bbc.co.uk/health

Tens of thousands of people with asthma in the UK are not getting the right medicines to keep their condition safely under control, according to an audit. The charity Asthma UK, which analysed nearly 100,000 patient records to reach this estimate, says lives are at risk. It found some patients had been put on the wrong types of inhalers. And some medics were not picking up on warning signs that asthma could be spiralling dangerously out of control.

Environmental health

[Leaky pipes 'could pose health risk'](#)

8th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Leaky pipes may be causing upset stomachs because they allow contaminated water to get into the system, it is being claimed. Sheffield University's Prof Joby Boxall issued the warning after studying the risks posed by leaky pipes.

Emergency planning

David Cameron to unveil 'disease detectives' plan

7th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Prime Minister David Cameron is to unveil plans for a rapid reaction force of UK medical experts to respond to future pandemics like Ebola. He will urge fellow world leaders to "wake up" to the threat posed by such diseases at the G7 summit in Germany. The UK will "lead the way" with a team of "disease detectives" on permanent standby to fly anywhere in the world to identify new infections, he will say.

Health promotion

Does your birthday affect your disease risk?

10th June 2015

Source: NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/news

"Scientists Find Surprising Link Between Birth Month And Disease Risk," the Huffington Post reports. Using data mining techniques on 1.7 million electronic medical records, US researchers found an association between birth month and certain chronic diseases, as well as less serious conditions such as insect bites.

Why the NHS could soon prescribe home improvements and knitting

6th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

(...) the opening weeks of this government have been dominated by initiatives to get the health service back on an even keel by driving down costs by targeting areas such as spending on agency staff. But dig a little deeper and there is a fascinating parallel debate going on about just how ambitious and radical the health service should be. It centres on this: to what extent should the NHS think outside the box as a way of preventing ill-health?

Health protection

Hospital drug pumps are hackable, experts warn

9th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Hospital drug pumps produced by a leading medical supplier could be hacked because of security weaknesses, a cybersecurity expert has said. Billy Rios said Hospira had still not fixed weaknesses he identified in 2014. There is no suggestion that a pump has ever been maliciously hacked. Hospira told the BBC that patient safety was its "priority" and that it was working with regulators to fix the issues.

Doctors' cosmetic surgery guidance urges more honesty

8th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Doctors who carry out cosmetic procedures should give patients time to think before agreeing to go ahead, new guidance says. The General Medical Council has produced the guidance to make surgical and non-surgical procedures, such as facelifts, breast implants, dermal fillers and Botox, safer.

Superbugs 'spread by hospital wet wipes'

8th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Scientists from Cardiff University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science tested seven detergent wipes used in hospitals across the UK on three common infections. They showed "huge variability" in their ability to kill the disease-causing bacteria. In every case, the wipes spread the superbugs from one surface to another.

NHS Blood and Transplant call for new donors after stark drop

5th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

A campaign is calling for new blood donors in England and Wales following a 40% drop in fresh volunteers in the past decade. (...) It believes one of the main reasons is the increasing pressure on people's free time - citing longer commutes and the distractions of social media.

Health services administration

Public service complaints 'too hard', watchdog says

13th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Only a third of people who experience poor service from public bodies such as the NHS make a complaint, a survey of more than 4,200 people has found. The research was commissioned by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, which deals with complaints about bodies including NHS England, who says the process should be simpler. The most common reason not to complain was feeling it would be "pointless".

Hospital productivity report shows how NHS can make large savings

11th June 2015

Source: NHS England

www.gov.uk

Lord Carter has worked with 22 leading hospitals to see how the NHS could save money by doing things more efficiently and spreading best practice. His report finds that the NHS could save up to £5 billion every year by 2020 by making better use of staff, using medicines more effectively and getting better value from the huge number of products it buys.

Simple steps 'could save NHS £5bn'

11th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

The NHS in England could save £5bn a year with improved staff organisation and a better approach to purchasing, a review will say. Lord Carter came to the conclusion after spending a year working with 22 hospitals on behalf of the government. He found a wide variation in spending across medicines, everyday items and on facilities, such as heating.

Integrated care cannot succeed without radical changes to commissioning

9th June 2015

Source: Kings Fund

www.kingsfund.org.uk

A new report from The King's Fund argues that the fragmentation of commissioning is a major obstacle to integrating health and social care and improving outcomes for people. "Options for integrated commissioning: Beyond Barker" follows on from the final report of

the independent Commission on the Future of Health and Social Care in England (the Barker Commission) (...) which called for an end to the historic divide between the NHS and social care.

Hospitals warn fines for missing targets 'harming care'

8th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk

Hospitals are warning that fines for missing targets are in danger of threatening patient care. Under NHS rules trusts can be penalised for not hitting targets such as the four-hour A&E waiting time mark. An investigation by BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme found some trusts were fined over over £8m last year.

CQC to begin work on assessing use of resources in NHS hospitals

5th June 2015 Source: Care Quality Commission www.cqc.org.uk

The Secretary of State for Health has asked CQC's Chief Inspector of Hospitals to look at use of resources as part of his inspections of NHS hospitals. This work – which will be developed as part of CQC's new strategy for 2016 onwards – will focus on organisations' ability to deliver high quality patient care that is also efficient and sustainable.

Infant & child health

Test fitness at primary school, say health campaigners

16th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Children should be tested for fitness, as well as maths and English, to reduce inactivity, say health campaigners. Campaign group ukactive says the UK faces a "ticking time bomb" of health problems due to lack of exercise.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards need fair funding and a realistic remit

15th June 2015 Source: Local Government Association www.local.gov.uk

Government must ensure local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) have a realistic remit of responsibility and are funded fairly by all agencies, leading local government figures said today. LSCBs bring together councils, the police, health services, schools and other organisations to monitor and coordinate activity to keep children safe and oversee reviews of serious cases. However, across the country, councils are increasingly having to foot the bill when partners fail to meet their obligations to contribute a fair share of resources.

Men's health

Athletes Colin Jackson and Donovan Bailey urge prostate cancer 'fear factor'

15th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Former athletes Colin Jackson and Donovan Bailey say black men need the "fear factor" to ensure they take prostate cancer seriously. Current figures suggest one in eight men in the UK will develop the disease at some stage of their life - but for black men of African and Caribbean descent, it is one in four.

Mental health

[Does owning a cat put your family at risk of schizophrenia?](#)

15th June 2015 Source: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/news

Scientists have discovered a link between people who own cats and the development of mental illnesses, including schizophrenia, and believe a parasite may be to blame.

[Mental health crisis care 'struggling to cope'](#)

12th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

People who need urgent mental health care in England are receiving inadequate support, regulators say. The Care Quality Commission reviewed the help given to people in mental health crisis, which includes people who are suicidal, having serious panic attacks or psychotic episodes. The regulator said the system was "struggling to cope". Its report also highlighted what it described as a "lack of compassion" from A&E staff.

[Why the NHS could soon prescribe home improvements and knitting](#)

6th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

(....) the opening weeks of this government have been dominated by initiatives to get the health service back on an even keel by driving down costs by targeting areas such as spending on agency staff. But dig a little deeper and there is a fascinating parallel debate going on about just how ambitious and radical the health service should be. It centres on this: to what extent should the NHS think outside the box as a way of preventing ill-health?

[Depression 'starts in the womb' claim is unproven](#)

5th June 2015 Source: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/news

"The seeds of depression can be sown in the womb," is the claim in the Mail Online. While a new study did find that depression during pregnancy was linked to an increased risk of depression in adult offspring, a range of factors could be contributing.

[Smoking cessation in secondary care: mental health settings](#)

4th June 2015 Source: Public Health England www.gov.uk

Guidance and self-assessment framework for NHS mental health trusts to develop local action to reduce smoking prevalence and the use of tobacco.

Older people

[Poor sleep quality linked to Alzheimer's disease](#)

3rd June 2015 Source: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/news

"Sleepless nights ... could raise your odds of developing Alzheimer's," is the claim in the Daily Mail. A new US study did find a link between poor sleep quality and higher levels of clumps of abnormal proteins in the brain (known as beta-amyloid plaques), but no cause and effect relationship between sleep quality and Alzheimer's disease was proven.

Oral health

[NHS failing to direct patients to dentists, says Which?](#)

16th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

Patients are still facing problems finding an NHS dentist in England, research suggests. Access to dentistry within the NHS has been a long-running problem. To help patients navigate their way round the system, NHS Choices now provides details of which dentists accept new NHS patients. But researchers from consumer group Which? found three in 10 advertising availability could not actually take on new patients.

Physical activity

[Further swimming decline dominates latest sports figures](#)

11th June 2015

Source: Sport England

www.sportengland.org

A further drop in the number of people swimming once a week has again dominated the latest grassroots sports participation figures, which were published today. The statistics, covering the change during the six month period from October 2014 to March 2015, show that 15.5 million people did some kind of sport once a week, every week – 222,000 fewer than six months ago.

[Thousands join Doorstep initiative](#)

9th June 2015

Source: Sport England

www.sportengland.org

Over 47,000 youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds have joined the growing Doorstep Sport Club programme, a national initiative designed to encourage more active lifestyles. Launched two years ago by the national sports charity StreetGames, in partnership with Sport England, the programme has seen around a third of female participants sign-up as well as 32 per cent from a black and ethnic minority background.

[Use Our School launches](#)

8th June 2015

Source: Sport England

www.sportengland.org

Whether starting from scratch or improving what you already offer, Use Our School contains a huge raft of support, information and advice for schools, local authorities and sport partners on running sport activities.

[This Girl Can returns with a big bang](#)

4th June 2015

Source: Sport England

www.sportengland.org

Following a phenomenal response to the launch of our This Girl Can campaign, we've now introduced new ways for women to join in and get active.

Prison health

[Hepatitis cases responsible for 93% of prison disease reports](#)

15th June 2015

Source: Public Health England

www.gov.uk

Health and justice annual report sheds light on prison health and inequalities. New figures from Public Health England (PHE) reveal hepatitis B and C cases accounted for

1,174 of 1,268 infectious diseases reported in English prisons during 2014. The number of single reports of infectious diseases made to PHE has more than doubled since 2011 (549 reports). The increase in reports reflects significant improvements in testing for hepatitis and other blood borne viruses (BBV) in prisons, which in a major change is moving from an 'opt-in' to an 'opt-out' policy to help reduce transmissions.

Safety & accident prevention

Number of UK drownings at lowest since records began

12th June 2015 Source: RoSPA www.rospa.com

The number of accidental drownings in the UK has fallen to its lowest level since records began. There were a total of 338 water-related deaths from accidents or natural causes across the UK in 2014, according to a report published today by the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF). That number, from statistics published by NWSF, has fallen from 381 in 2013, and is the lowest figure since data collection began in 1983.

Screening

New figures show more people across the country are having health checks

12th June 2015 Source: Local Government Association www.local.gov.uk

More people from high-risk and hard-to-reach groups are having a free NHS Health Check after local authorities took over the responsibility for delivering them. New Public Health England (PHE) figures show that 1,485,339 people were given check-ups last year after 3,042,478 - some 19.7% of the eligible population - were offered them. The figures show a 7.9% increase in the number of people who were offered checks and a 7.4% increase in the number of people who undertook them, compared to year 2013/14.

Warning over 'dodgy' allergy tests

12th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

A leading scientist warns that not all allergy tests do what they say. (...) More and more consumers are being duped by diagnostic tests that are unproven, misleading and, in some cases, of no scientific basis whatsoever. All manner of diagnostic tests can now be bought directly from online retailers or high street stores, without any input from a regulated health professional.

Genetic test for 'familial' heart risk extended

9th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

More people in England are to be offered a blood test to check if they have a genetic risk of heart disease. As many as 320,000 people in the UK have familial hypercholesterolaemia - an inherited condition that causes dangerously high cholesterol levels. Left undiagnosed and untreated, up to half of those with FH will develop heart disease before they are 60.

New blood test for viral infections shows promise

8th June 2015 Source: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/news

"New test uses a single drop of blood to reveal entire history of viral infections," The Guardian reports. Every time you are infected by a virus, your immune system produces specific types of antibodies in response. These antibodies remain in your body long after the infection has gone. The new test, called VirScan, is able to assess all these antibodies, building up a detailed immune "history" of viral infections.

[Five-year 'death test' for older adults launched online](#)

4th June 2015 Source: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/news

"Are you dying to know? Scientists develop death test to predict if you'll make it to 2020," The Daily Telegraph reports. The test is based on analysis of data collected from the UK Biobank, a huge ongoing cohort study that collected data from almost 500,000 middle- to older-age adults in the UK over an average of five years. This data was then used to create an online death risk calculator.

[Breast cancer screening 'cuts deaths by 40%' expert panel says](#)

4th June 2015 Source: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/news

"Women who undergo breast cancer screening cut their risk of dying from the disease by 40%, according to a global panel of experts," The Guardian reports. Breast cancer screening reduces deaths from the condition by spotting cases of breast cancer at an early stage when they are still curable.

Sexual health

[First penile transplant recipient 'to become father'](#)

11th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

The South African recipient of the world's first penile transplant is to become a father, a surgeon who performed the operation has told the BBC. (...) The 21-year-old recipient, whose identity is being protected, lost his penis in a botched circumcision. The operation took place in December.

[FPA opens online sex toy shop to promote pleasure](#)

5th June 2015 Source: FPA www.fpa.org.uk

Sexual health charity FPA, celebrating its 85th birthday this year, has launched an online shop selling sex toys in a bid to break the taboo around sexual enjoyment. FPA Pleasure, which was officially launched (...) by Embarrassing Bodies star Dr Dawn Harper, also features articles and blog posts with information and advice on a range of sexual health and wellbeing

[Porn addiction: I couldn't focus on everyday activities](#)

4th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

One man tells of his struggles with pornography

Smoking

[Facebook and Twitter could be used to help people quit smoking](#)

11th June 2015 Source: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/news

"Using social media to kick the [smoking] habit means you're 'TWICE as likely to succeed'," the Mail Online reports. A study of a Canadian social media campaign aimed at helping young people quit smoking found it was twice as successful as telephone helplines.

[Call for tobacco levy to help smokers quit](#)

10th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

A levy on the tobacco industry is needed to help fund anti-smoking measures, health campaigners say. The 120 health groups led by Action on Smoking and Health want the annual levy to pay for more stop-smoking clinics and enhanced media campaigns. They say it should form part of a renewed push to reduce smoking rates.

[E-cigarette ban in enclosed spaces in Wales pushes ahead](#)

9th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

People will be banned from using e-cigarettes in enclosed places such as restaurants, pubs and at work in Wales, under a new public health law. The plan, likely to come into force in 2017 and the first in the UK, has already divided opinion among health and medical groups, including some anti-smoking campaigners. But ministers say it is a "balance of risk" and will stop children smoking.

[RCP president says our children deserve a smokefree future](#)

9th June 2015

Source: Royal College of Physicians

www.rcplondon.ac.uk

Commenting on the launch today of the five-year tobacco strategy Smoking Still Kills from ASH, RCP president Professor Jane Dacre said: "The RCP welcomes the publication of Smoking Still Kills as a comprehensive blueprint for a smokefree society. Despite the progress we have made over the past couple of decades with the bans on tobacco advertising and smoking in public places, smoking is still our biggest killer."

[Reducing high smoking rates among patients in mental health units](#)

4th June 2015

Source: Public Health England

www.gov.uk

PHE and NHS England have today published new guidance to help medium and low secure mental health units best implement the NICE recommendation that all NHS funded sites should provide access to on-site stop smoking services and deliver care in an environment free of smoke.

Women's health

[Cervical cancer 'not just a young woman's disease'](#)

15th June 2015

Source: BBC Health

www.bbc.co.uk/health

There is a perception that cervical cancer is a young woman's disease, but half of deaths occur in women over 65, a British Medical Journal report says. It argues that the age limit for cervical screening should be raised to 70 and older women should be targeted in health campaigns.

[Endometriosis 'risks miscarriage'](#)

15th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Women with endometriosis are more likely to lose the baby and need extra care, say fertility doctors. It is caused by the lining of the uterus being found elsewhere in the body including the ovaries or vagina. A study, on nearly 15,000 people in Scotland, found the condition increased the risk of miscarriage by 76%.

Pregnancy diabetes guidelines 'could miss 4,000 women'

12th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

New criteria for diagnosing diabetes during pregnancy could be missing thousands of at-risk women, a report suggests. Although the threshold introduced by health watchdog NICE earlier this year has been lowered, Cambridge University research says it is still too high. The WHO's threshold is lower and identifies more women at risk of pregnancy complications.

Baby born from ovary frozen in mother's childhood

10th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

A woman in Belgium is the first in the world to give birth to a baby using transplanted ovarian tissue frozen when she was still a child, doctors say. The 27-year-old had an ovary removed at age 13, just before she began invasive treatment for sickle cell anaemia.

Continued decrease of abortion rate in England and Wales

9th June 2015 Source: FPA www.fpa.org.uk

Sexual health charity FPA's Chief Executive Natika H Halil said: "A continued reduction in abortion rates indicates that women have been able to access contraceptive services when they needed them and that awareness campaigns have been effective. But we are extremely concerned what will happen in coming months and years." The Government announced just last week a £200 million cut to the public health budget, which includes sexual health services commissioned by local authorities.

'Be on alert for bladder cancer' women advised

8th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

Bladder cancer is being missed in women because the symptoms are so similar to a urine infection, warn experts. Public Health England says women should take heed and visit their GP if they have blood in their urine or pain while passing water. While most cases will not be cancer, it is a diagnosis that is easy to miss.

Down's blood test 'would cut risk of miscarriage'

6th June 2015 Source: BBC Health www.bbc.co.uk/health

A safer test for Down's syndrome that reduces the risk of miscarriage could soon be available on the NHS. One in every 200 women loses her baby after an amniocentesis, in which the fluid around the developing foetus is tested for genetic disorders.

Local news: []

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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/>



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