



Weekly Update

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Events Diary

29 April

IHM Scotland/Association of CHPs

Community Health

Partnerships

9.30-4.30, Airth Castle Hotel

1 day seminar: plenary and workshop sessions with all topics relating to Primary Care and Community Health Partnership functions and activities. See attached flyer for details and booking.

22 & 23 May

Scottish Conference for Practice Management

Sustaining Quality

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld

Annual conference designed by practice managers for practice managers. Wide range of keynote and workshop presentations. Speakers include, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing. See attached flyer for full programme and booking.

23 May

NHS Scotland Golf Classic

St Andrew's Bay, Devlin Course

Charity fundraising event, open to all in the NHS.

4 June & 18 June

IHM Scotland

Project Management

9.30-4.30, Huntingtower Hotel, Perth

2 day workshop. See attached flyer for details.

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This week in Parliament

The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until the week beginning Monday 14 April.

Committee supports Public Health Bill

The Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee has given its endorsement to the general principles of the Public Health (Scotland) Bill, although it has also made a number of recommendations that it believes would improve the final legislation.

The aim of the bill is to update Scotland's public health legislation to ensure that public authorities are suitably equipped to cope with new and emerging threats to health. Committee convener, Christine Grahame MSP, said, "We live in times where people travel more – and to more places – than ever before. Against that background and in the light of outbreaks such as E coli at home and SARS around the globe, this bill will put Scotland's house in order. The committee views [the bill's] provisions as necessary, given the context of global biosecurity and international co-operation." However, the Committee's report also argues that the proposals could be improved to ensure the correct balance between public health priorities and the rights of individuals, calling, for example, for the bill to include a right of appeal against compulsory medical examination.

The Committee has also said that it will scrutinise amendments that are likely to be brought forward during Stage 2 to extend the provisions for sun bed parlour operators by outlawing unsupervised use of sun beds and use of sun beds by the under-18s.

The Stage 1 parliamentary debate on the bill will take place when MSPs return after their spring recess.

Sturgeon rejects further scrutiny of Stobhill decision

In response to a parliamentary question by Paul Martin, Labour MSP for Glasgow Springburn, Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon rejected his request to set up an Independent Scrutiny Panel to re-examine service configuration at Stobhill Hospital. Ms Sturgeon said that she had been "open, honest and frank in making it clear that I cannot undo all the decisions that the previous Administration took. In the case to which Paul Martin refers, the decision was taken several years ago, and its implementation is now at an advanced stage."

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Three NHS boards in MRSA screening pilot

NHS Grampian, NHS Ayrshire & Arran and NHS Western Isles will be the 'Pathfinder' health boards who will participate in a pilot screening programme, beginning in April. The announcement was made by Health Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, last week during a parliamentary debate on the Scottish Government's strategy to tackle HAIs. The boards will be responsible for running a year-long programme of screening all hospital patients for MRSA, backed by £7 million of new investment in 2008-09. If successful, the pilot programme will lead to screening programmes being introduced in every health board from 2009-10. Ms Sturgeon said that the pilot would be an "exhaustive test" of the screening model, which would identify necessary adjustments and iron problems before Scotland-wide roll-out.

During the parliamentary debate, Ms Sturgeon said that there were two important points to understand in tackling HAIs: "First, we will not eradicate all infection from our hospitals; what we can do is reduce infection and control it better... Secondly, the NHS is not always to blame. Many infections are brought into hospitals from the community. That means that the public have a vital role to play, for example by washing their hands thoroughly, not sitting on beds and not touching drips and intravenous stands. However, it is essential that the NHS redoubles its efforts to drive down infection."

The government accepted a Labour amendment to its motion on HAIs during a measured and consensual debate; the amended motion was then supported unanimously by MSPs.

Health Promoting acute care guidance

The Scottish Government Public Health and Well-being Directorate has published new guidance, outlining the actions to be taken within acute settings to develop the Health Promoting Health Service concept. www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2008_14.pdf

Nominations open for primary care good practice award

Nominations have opened for the 2008 Bob Scott Brown award, which has been presented by IHM Scotland since 2001 in memory of Bob Scott Brown, a popular and well respected IHM supporter and practice manager, who had a major impact in promoting patient-focused primary care across Scotland, and particularly in the Dumfries area where he managed two medical practices. Bob's contribution is recognised through this annual award to encourage identification and dissemination of good practice achievements in primary care.

Previous winners have included:

- the Stewartry Project in Dumfries and Galloway for integrated stroke care
- a Cumbernauld nurse-led initiative on the management of chronic pain
- a clinical care follow-up tool developed by Dr Lorna Dunlop of Riverview Medical Centre in Johnstone.

The 2008 award provides another opportunity for innovation or good practice in primary care to gain recognition and be shared across Scotland. This year's award will be presented at the NHS Education for Scotland Networking and Learning for Practice Managers' Annual Conference, *Sustaining Quality*, which takes place on 22 & 23 May 2008 at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, and published by IHM in the appropriate journals. The winner will receive a cheque for £1000. Your entry should, in no more than 1,000 words, outline an innovative development in primary care which encourages joint working between the professions and across traditional boundaries and demonstrates real benefits to patients. Entries, from both IHM members and non-members, should be sent by **25 April** to practicemanager@nes.scot.nhs.uk or to Mary Mitchell, NES Networking and Learning National Co-ordinator, NHS Education for Scotland, 3rd Floor 2 Central Quay, 89 Hydepark Street, Glasgow G3 8BW. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to promote the excellent work going in primary care. Good luck!

The IHM is the leading UK professional organisation for managers in health and health-care. Its purpose is to enhance and promote high standards of professional management in order to improve health and healthcare for the benefit of the public.