



Weekly Update

NUMBER 104 | 14 APRIL 2008

Events Diary

29 April

IHM Scotland/Association of CHPs

Community Health

Partnerships

9.30-4.30, Airth Castle Hotel

Programme and booking form attached for this joint event. *The content of the day is very varied and will appeal to senior and middle managers, clinical and non clinical, with examples of good practice from throughout the country and excellent opportunities for networking.*

22 & 23 May

Scottish Conference for Practice Management

Sustaining Quality

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld

Annual conference designed by practice managers for practice managers. See attached flyer for full programme and booking.

4 June & 18 June

IHM Scotland

Project Management

9.30-4.30, Huntingtower Hotel, Perth
2 day workshop. See attached flyer for details.

10 June

IHM Scotland

'How to increase your power and influence'

9.30-4.00, Airth Castle Hotel

See attached flyer for details and booking.

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This week in Parliament

Wednesday

10:00 Health and Sport Committee

The Committee will take evidence from Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland

17:00 Members' Business: Hugh O'Donnell (LibDem, Central Scotland) - A call for better epilepsy care

...Parliament welcomes the forthcoming *More specialist nurses, better epilepsy care* campaign being run by Epilepsy Scotland for National Epilepsy Week 2008...acknowledges the valuable contribution specialist epilepsy nurses make to patient-centred treatment and epilepsy management; recognises the cost savings that these nurse posts make by reducing hospital stays, decreasing consultants' workload and uncovering misdiagnosis and overtreatment; encourages NHS Scotland to address the shortfall in posts which means access to an epilepsy specialist nurse is a postcode lottery; notes that five NHS boards are without either paediatric, adult or learning disability nurses; believes that funding should be provided for additional epilepsy specialist nurses; advises that the recommendation of the Joint Epilepsy Council of the UK and Ireland for one specialist nurse for adult, paediatric and learning disability, per 100,000 of the population be followed in Scotland; acknowledges that resources for medical and administrative support must be available for specialist nurses to allow them to work effectively; suggests that increased specialist nurse provision will contribute towards related HEAT targets for an improved healthcare experience and rates of attendance at accident and emergency departments, and believes that the requests in this motion relate directly to plans contained in the Scottish Government's *Better Health, Better Care* strategy for a healthier Scotland, launched on 12 December 2007.

Thursday

11:40 General Question Time

Brian Adam (SNP, Aberdeen North): does the Scottish Government have any plans to monitor the provision of alternative and augmentative communication aids by individual health authorities; David Stewart (Lab, Highlands & Islands): what incentives and financial support are being considered to encourage people to train in rural medicine and commit to working in remote and rural areas.

12:00 First Minister's Question Time

14:55 Stage 1 Debate: Public Health etc. (Scotland) Bill

Weekly Update

Three year AfC pay deal agreed

Health Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, announced last week that a pay deal for NHS staff covered by Agenda for Change has been agreed. Pay increases over the next three years will be:

- 2.75 per cent from 1 April 2008
- 2.4 per cent in 2009-10
- and 2.25 per cent in 2010-11

Ms Sturgeon commented, "This is the best deal for any group of public sector staff and recognises the hard work our front-line staff whose tireless service ensures our NHS provides a first-class service to patients. As well as providing fair and reasonable annual increases, the agreement provides improved pay for staff at the lower end of the NHS pay spectrum by both raising the minimum level of pay in year two and providing a flat rate increase in the third year."

"It also recognises the aspirations of a significant proportion of staff in the middle pay range for improved pay progression arrangements by raising the maximum level of basic pay in Pay Band 5 over three years from 2009."

Ms Sturgeon added that, although pleased with the deal, she had some concerns about the negotiation process, and had insisted with the Department of Health in England that Scottish government officials and Scottish NHS employers were closely involved.

The Health Secretary also announced that Scotland was accepting in full the pay uplift recommendations of the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body for 2008/09.

£6m to tackle childhood obesity

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon announced funding of £6m to address childhood obesity today. It will be aimed at helping 20,000 overweight and obese children, as part of the Scottish Government's agenda for tackling health inequalities. Health boards will be tasked with setting up family-focused healthy weight treatment programmes, promoting healthy eating and physical activity and address the psychological, social and behavioural causes of weight gain, for children aged between 5 and 15.

New guidance on extended GP access

An NHS Scotland circular about the new Direct Enhanced Service (DES) of extended opening hours for GP practices, which was agreed with the BMA Scottish GP Committee earlier this year, has been released to the service by the Scottish Government Primary and Community Care Directorate. The circular outlines the conditions, eligibility, exclusions and payment arrangements for provision of the new service. NHS Boards will be required to discuss the specific local arrangements with each participating practice and the Local Medical Committee.

Read NHS Circular PCA(M)2008(4) at [www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2008\(M\)04.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2008(M)04.pdf).

Annual conference date change

Please note that this year's IHM Scotland annual conference and exhibition will now take place on **20 and 21 October**, and not on the 8th and 9th as previously advertised. The venue of Airth Castle Hotel near Falkirk remains unchanged. Put the new dates in your diary today.

The conference planning group is meeting at the end of this month. If you have ideas or suggestions for speakers or topics for this year's programme, send them to hilary.iannotti@btopenworld.com before 29 April.

Reminder: opportunity for formal assessors

There are less than two weeks left to apply for the chance to become an assessor for the Vocational Training Scheme for General Practice Management (Scotland) and for MHSC Milestones or a professional Panel Member to undertake assessment of candidates' portfolios of work. IHM Scotland is currently looking for experienced people with a background in and knowledge of Scottish healthcare to undertake this work. All the positions are remunerated and induction training will be provided. Full details are included on the invitation letter attached with the Update. CVs should be sent to hilary.iannotti@btopenworld.com by **25 April**.

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.