



# Weekly Update

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## Events Diary

### 9 & 10 September

Association of CHPs

#### Annual Conference: 'Better, Better, Better'

Thistle Hotel, Glasgow

*Keynote speech by Public Health Minister, Shona Robison. Programme and booking form attached.*

### 9, 10 & 11 September

IHM Scotland

#### Practice Management: Cutting Free from the Legacy of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

9.30-4pm, Nairn, Edinburgh & Glasgow

*1 day workshop, with Kathie Applebee. For all practice managers. See attached flyer*

### 24 September

IHM Scotland

#### The Manager's Guide to Clinical Governance

9.30am-4pm, Airth Castle Hotel

*One day workshop linking directly to the 'Managing Service Quality' Milestone. See flyer for full details.*

### 20 & 21 October

IHM Scotland

#### 'Getting the balance right': annual conference

12.30pm Monday 20th – 12.30pm Tuesday 21st, Airth Castle Hotel

*Book online now at*

*[www.hfevents.co.uk/ihm2008](http://www.hfevents.co.uk/ihm2008). See attached flyer for programme details.*

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## This week in Parliament

*The Scottish Parliament returns from recess next week.*

### Sturgeon: "one last push" to achieve cancer waits target

Health Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, has described the latest reduction in cancer waiting times as "encouraging" and said that she wants NHS boards to make "one last push" to meet the national target for cancer waiting times. The most recent figures from the Scottish Government's Chief Statistician, for January to March of this year, show that 94.1 per cent of patients were treated within two months of an urgent referral, just short of the official target of 95 per cent, which was due to have been met by the end of last year. The statistics showed that if just 20 more patients had been treated within the required timescale, the target would have been met.

Particular progress was made in the areas of childhood cancer and acute leukaemia, where respectively 100 per cent and 99 percent of patients were treated within 31 days of urgent referral. However, for breast cancer patients, the figure falls to 83.2 per cent within 31 days.

The cancer types with the highest and lowest fractions of patients starting treatment within 62 days of urgent referral were ovarian (100 per cent) and lymphoma (89.4 per cent) respectively. The mainland Health Boards with the highest and lowest fractions of patients starting treatment within 62 days of urgent referral were NHS Highland (96.0 per cent) and NHS Grampian (92.2 per cent) respectively.

Ms Sturgeon commented, "Today's figures show that we are continuing to make good progress and waiting times are continuing to fall. Health boards came very close to meeting the demanding 62-day target which has proved particularly challenging for them. The statistics show that boards have done well - and waiting times are coming down. But I now want boards to make one last push which will enable us not only to meet the target but to sustain that level of service. In addition, we are currently updating our cancer strategy which will be published soon."

The detailed statistics can be downloaded at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/CanWaitTimeQ12008](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/CanWaitTimeQ12008).

# Weekly Update

## 'Greater consistency' required in palliative care

Good palliative care is still not available to everyone who needs it and there needs to be far greater consistency in funding and delivery across Scotland, according to a new report by Audit Scotland.

The report says most people receive 'generalist' palliative care, from GPs, community nurses, hospital staff or family and friends, but that patients with any condition who need care from specialist services should be able to get this. Currently, however, specialist care mainly focuses on people with cancer.

The availability of specialist care also varies significantly across Scotland and different areas have different models; the number of specialist staff per 100,000 people ranges from 4.1 in NHS Ayrshire and Arran to 7.3 in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and 11.2 in NHS Highland.

Caroline Gardner, the Deputy Auditor General for Scotland, said, "Palliative care should be an integral part of the support given to patients and their families and carers during the last months, days and hours of their lives. In many areas of Scotland the voluntary sector and the health service provide excellent and much appreciated care. But access to good quality palliative care varies across the country. The Scottish Government needs to address these issues in the palliative care action plan it is due to publish this October."

The report argues that generalists who provide palliative care should receive advice and support from specialist staff, but that good practice guidelines were not being consistently applied across Scotland. It also found that the true figure spent on palliative care is unknown, as the cost of generalist care is not differentiated.

A full report and summary of key messages can be found at [www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/work/health\\_national.php?year=2008](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/work/health_national.php?year=2008).

## Time running out to nominate for Health and Society awards

The annual award season is approaching once again, with more opportunities to nominate services and colleagues who deserve to have their contributions to patient care and public service recognised. First up are the Daily Record Health Awards, organised in association with the Scottish Government and now in their sixth year. This year, once again, IHM Scotland is sponsoring the NHS Top Manager award, helping to highlight the essential contribution that good management makes to patient care and reward examples of excellent practice. Other categories include a new NHS Equalities award, for a special contribution made to help disadvantaged groups, and an NHS 60th Anniversary Pride of Scotland award. Anyone can make a nomination, and forms can be submitted online at

[www.scottishhealthawards.com/nomination\\_form.html](http://www.scottishhealthawards.com/nomination_form.html). The closing date is

**Monday 8 September.**

This year also sees the inaugural Herald Society Awards, which recognise achievement in public services across Scotland. IHM Scotland is backing the Outstanding Public Servant of the Year Award; that could be a health or social care manager! Other categories include Health Provider of the Year and Environmental Initiative of the Year, the latter sponsored by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. A full list of categories and an entry form can be found at [www.theherald.co.uk/societyawards08/](http://www.theherald.co.uk/societyawards08/) and entries must be submitted (by post) by

**Tuesday 23 September.**

## Project Management workshop to return

All available places have now been filled for next month's two day Project Management workshop, organised by IHM Scotland and taking place in Dunblane on 11 and 25 September. This hugely popular workshop, led by John Hutchison of the Grange Group, has already sold out in previous locations and due to the obvious continuing appetite for training on this subject, a further date will shortly be announced for February 2009.

**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.**