



# 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.

## Contact us:

Jim Currie, Secretary, IHM Scotland

[jim.currie@ihmscotland.co.uk](mailto:jim.currie@ihmscotland.co.uk)

Hilary Iannotti, Business Manager

[hilary.iannotti@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.iannotti@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.ihmscotland.co.uk](http://www.ihmscotland.co.uk)

## This week in Parliament Wednesday

**From 9:30am First Minister's Statement: Scottish Government's Programme** followed by debate on the Scottish Government's Programme, throughout the day

## Thursday

11:40 General Question Time

12:00 First Minister's Question Time

14:55 Scottish Government Debate: Obesity Action Plan

## Scottish A&E waiting times reach record low

The latest waiting times figures from the Scottish Government show that during June 2008, 98.3 per cent of patients spent less than four hours in A&E between arrival and admission, transfer or discharge - the best performance ever by NHS Scotland. On 30 June 2008, only two patients waited more than nine weeks for key diagnostic tests, once again NHS Scotland's best performance yet. Eight diagnostic tests are currently subject to the national standard of 95 per cent to be treated within nine weeks: upper endoscopy, lower endoscopy, colonoscopy, cystoscopy, barium studies, CT scans, MRI scans and ultrasound.

Public Health Minister, Shona Robison, congratulated NHS staff and boards on the achievement, saying, "Today's statistics show an overall impressive performance from the NHS in Scotland, effectively meeting all our challenging national maximum waiting times targets. This is very good news for patients but it is not the end of the story.

"We cannot afford to be complacent and that's why we are supporting boards to further cut waiting times for patients. We are currently working towards a 'whole journey' maximum waiting time of 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment, to be delivered by the end of 2011."

This is the second time that waiting times statistics have been released since availability status codes - so-called "hidden waiting lists" - were abolished at the beginning of this year.

The full set of statistics can be read at <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/5725.html>.

# Weekly Update

## Dementia Research Network established

A new Dementia Clinical Research Network for Scotland was launched last week by the Chief Medical Officer. The network will bring together academics and clinicians to attempt to translate scientific discoveries into safe and effective treatments. It will be chaired by Dr Peter Connelly, a Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist from NHS Tayside and the director will be Professor John Starr from NHS Lothian and the University of Edinburgh. Launching the Network, Dr Harry Burns, said the network will ensure Scotland is working towards better treatment, diagnosis and care for those with dementia. Dr Peter Connelly, chair of the Dementia Research Network said the investment will bring a co-ordinated approach to dementia research in Scotland for the first time. The network will receive Scottish Government funding of £1,048,381 over three years.

Public Health Minister, Shona Robison, said it showed that the Scottish Government has made it a national priority to tackle dementia and improve support for those with the condition, adding that the Dementia Research Network combines "the excellence of NHS clinical work with the first class facilities and knowledge of major academic centres available throughout Scotland."

People interested in participating in research on dementia should contact Professor John Starr at the Royal Victoria Hospital on 0131 5375023.

## Only a week left to respond to alcohol proposals

Public Health Minister, Shona Robison, has urged people to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on its alcohol action plan before the closing date of 9 September. The proposals for changing Scotland's relationship with alcohol and drastically reducing the 2.25 billion pound annual 'clear up' cost include a minimum price for a unit of alcohol, ending irresponsible promotions, raising the off-sales alcohol purchase age to 21 and a social responsibility fee for some retailers. The consultation and online response form can be downloaded at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/16084348/0>

## Last chance to book for practice manager education events

This week is your last chance to snap up the remaining places for primary care expert Kathie Applebee's latest training workshop for practice managers. Kathie - a psychologist, management consultant and adviser on primary care issues to the UK government - is well known to practice managers across the UK as a trainer who helps them to stay at the cutting edge of their professional role. Her new one-day event, entitled 'Practice Management: Cutting Free from the Legacy of the 20th Century', will be repeated on Tuesday 9, Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 September, in venues in Nairn, Edinburgh and Glasgow, ensuring accessibility for managers from all across Scotland.

The workshop comprises four sessions, each one covering a core issue for modern practice management:

- Understanding the difference between management and administration and finding the right balance between the two
- Considering the psychological demands of the role and dealing with stress areas
- Discussing and sharing best practice with colleagues, and
- How to make strategic thinking a part of the role, focusing on the future as well as the daily workload, and contributing to your personal development.

The event is CPD credited and certificates will be available on request.

Return the form attached with this copy of the Update to secure your place at your nearest workshop, or contact IHM Scotland Business and Education Manager, Hilary Iannotti, at 01292 440 395 and [hilary.iannotti@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.iannotti@btinternet.com) for further information.

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