

*A monthly bulletin to keep you up to date with developments in commissioning; produced by the North West Primary Care Librarians Group*

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## Widespread variations remain in local NHS spending - new analysis from The King's Fund

Widespread variations in how much the NHS spends locally on different diseases – even after the different needs of local communities are taken into account – are revealed today in a new report from The King's Fund. NHS spending: local variations in priorities: an

update analyses Department of Health data covering the financial years 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2006/7. The report provides an update to a previous report from The King's Fund in 2006, which for the first time analysed the varying amounts primary care trusts (PCTs) in England

spend on diseases such as cancer, mental health and circulatory diseases (such as heart disease).

**(Published August 2008, 8 pages)**

[http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/media/pct\\_spend\\_variations.html](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/media/pct_spend_variations.html)

## Transfer commissioning of social care for adults with a learning disability from the NHS to local government

This letter and annex set out the existing policy and legal framework for the transfer of learning disability social care funding and commissioning from the NHS to local authorities with effect from 1

April 2009. The annex provides guidance on what is covered, what PCTs and LAs need to do and the timescale for the transfer. The proposed transfer was set out in Valuing People Now.

**(Published August 2008, 15 pages)**

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_087148](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_087148)

## How SUS supports Commissioners

World-class commissioning in the NHS means that the provision of high-quality, up-to-date information has never been more important. Information on the use of healthcare resources is critical to the success of Practice Based Commissioning. The NHS Comparators service enables general practices to analyse variations in the use of services across practice populations and to identify

areas that may benefit from the redesign of services. SUS will support by undertaking standard processing such as the correct grouping of activity and application of national tariffs once, SUS provides the opportunity to minimise the transaction costs associated with the comprehensive implementation of Payment by Results. SUS will manage new data flows to enable the analysis necessary to support

the achievement of the Government's target of a maximum waiting time from referral to treatment of 18 weeks.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-data-collection-and-use/the-secondary-uses-service-sus/how-sus-supports-commissioners>

## Service for the accurate diagnosis of the epilepsies in adults

This commissioning guide provides support for the local implementation of NICE clinical guidelines through commissioning, and is a resource to help health professionals in England to commission an effective service for the accurate diagnosis of the epilepsies in adults.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/usingguidance/commissioningguides/epilepsiesinadults/epilepsydiagnosis/home.jsp>

## Interim report of the Expert Group on Commissioning NHS Infertility Provision

An Expert Group on Commissioning NHS Infertility Provision was established by the Department at the beginning of 2008, with the aim of identifying the barriers to the implementation of the NICE fertility guideline and helping PCTs move towards the implementation of the guideline. The group is due to report in 2009, and has issued an interim report with recommendations, including that consideration be given to a clear clinical pathway and a national tariff for regulated fertility services.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_087134](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_087134)

### A group approach to PBC can improve care for targeted disease

Dr Richard More demonstrates how Somerset GP practices combined to provide better local facilities for treatment of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

**Guidelines in Practice 2008, 11 ( 8) p15- 19**

### BMA: Polyclinics

The BMA is concerned that many polyclinics are being imposed across the country, regardless of local need. This could lead to some local GP surgeries having to reduce the services they offer, or being closed if funding is diverted towards new polyclinics. Patients are also likely to have to travel further in order to see their GP.

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/polyclinicsqanda>

## Managing Urgent Mental Health Needs in the Acute Trust: A guide by practitioners, for managers

This report was prepared by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, working in partnership with representatives from the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Nursing and the College of Emergency Medicine. The current provision of mental health services to people attending the Emergency Department of General hospitals or those admitted to medical and surgical wards are extremely variable across the country.

There is an urgent need to develop national standards that inform the commissioning of services, thereby guaranteeing that people in need receive prompt assessment and management by appropriately trained professionals.

**(Published August 2008, 24 pages)**

<http://www.aomrc.org.uk/aomrc/admin/reports/docs/MHdoc.pdf>

## Other documents and conferences

**Hepatitis B – telbivudine; Technology appraisal**

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=12052>

**Macular degeneration (age-related) - ranibizumab and pegaptanib; Technology appraisal**

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=12057>

**Pregnancy (rhesus negative women) - routine anti-D; Technology appraisal**

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=12047>