Governance

Working Group established to consider children’s heart surgery services
Following receipt of an external report on Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services, Health Minister, Edwin Poots, is to establish a working group - consisting of parents, parent group representatives and clinicians - to examine the future of NI children’s heart surgery services. The report indicated that the current level of service provision in Belfast is not sustainable long term and that these issues must be addressed within six months

National Quality Board (NQB) sets out how quality will be maintained and improved in new health system DoH, 16 August, 2012
The NQB brings together the national organisations responsible for quality in the health system - including the Care Quality Commission, Monitor, the NHS Trust Development Authority, NMC, NICE, GMC, NHS Commissioning Board Authority and DoH. A report has been published, setting out how quality will be maintained and improved in the new health system

Revised UK medicines laws effective from 21 August
The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 update and significantly simplify outdated medicines legislation, while maintaining effective safeguards; they also include provision to implement new EU directives on monitoring the safety of medicines, ensuring high standards of public health protection across the EU. To coincide with this, the Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA) has also published an updated industry code of conduct on its website. The regulations are available online at
www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1916/contents/made

Echinacea warning
The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued precautionary advice that oral herbal products containing Echinacea should not be given to children under 12, warning that the perceived benefits are outweighed by the potential risks in this age-group; while the risk is low, an allergic reaction could be severe
http://www.mhra.gov.uk/NewsCentre/Pressreleases/CON180627

Case Management Society UK (CMSUK) is actively leading an evidence-based debate about better regulation and professional recognition for case managers
A recent investigation, commissioned by CMSUK, found strong support for a professional pathway that would increase professional recognition, registration, credibility and quality of case management provision. Details in Briefing Paper, July 2012:
**Leadership**

**Leading Improvement in Safety and Quality (LISQ)**
Training programme for primary care teams, beginning 25 October 2012. Offers new tools for understanding, measuring and improving safety and quality, plus leading teams through change. Aimed at senior GPs, practice managers and lead nurses

**Workforce**

**Hearts in Healthcare**
New worldwide online community, established by Dr Robin Youngson to champion compassionate care; the initiative aims to encourage health professionals, students, patient representatives, academics, administrators, researchers and leaders to ‘reconnect to the heart of their practice’, thus increasing both patient satisfaction and the well-being of the workforce
[http://www.heartsinhealthcare.com/](http://www.heartsinhealthcare.com/)

**Policy/Strategy**

**High Impact Innovations website launched**
Working with the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, and NHS Improvement, the DoH has now launched an implementation support website for the NHS; users can learn about the innovations; read case studies; access support to help with implementation, business cases development and service re-design; benchmark performance; share experiences
[http://www.innovation.nhs.uk/pg/dashboard](http://www.innovation.nhs.uk/pg/dashboard)

**NHS Interactive Timeline launched**
An initiative which brings to life 70 years of NHS reform, from inception in the post-war years through to the present day
Education/Development

RCN condemns student nurse bursary cut in Northern Ireland
The RCN firmly opposes DHSSPS proposals to reduce bursaries for pre-registration nursing and midwifery students in NI. The consultation document proposes that, from September 2012, the bursary will be reduced by £890 per annum; in addition, students will no longer receive the current book and uniform allowance. There is also concern that those hoping to begin studies in September will have been unaware of the proposed changes at the time of application

Nursing Times launches new online learning unit on respiratory failure
This is intended to give nurses the skills to identify, classify, treat and support patients with this condition; useful not only for nurses caring for patients whose primary condition is respiratory failure, but also for those presenting with other conditions where it is a co-morbidity

Patient Experience

Improved uptake of MMR vaccine in NI
Health Minister Edwin Poots has welcomed statistical evidence that uptake rates for the MMR have reached an all-time high

New COPD inhaler approved for use in UK
The European Medicines Agency has approved Almirall’s aclidinium bromide inhaler (Eklira Genuair) for use twice daily to relieve symptoms in adults with COPD
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5047698.article?referrer=e9

NICE backs CBT for chronic fatigue syndrome
Nursing Times, 2 August, 2012
Cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) and graded exercise therapy (GET) are both known to help patients with CFS (or ME - myalgic encephalomyelitis); new research has shown them also to be cost-effective
http://www.nursingtimes.net/5047819.article?referrer=e1

my diabetes my way
Interactive website launched by NHS Scotland to help support people who have diabetes, their family and friends; offers leaflets, videos, educational tools and games containing information on diabetes; can be used to view patients’ own up-to-date clinic results, thus helping them manage their condition more effectively
http://www.mydiabetesmyway.scot.nhs.uk/

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Patient Experience (continued)

Compassionate care saves money, time and lives
Theme of a talk given in July by Dr Robin Youngson at the University of Westminster, in association with the College of Medicine. Focusing on the importance of compassion in healthcare, he presents evidence from neuroscience and clinical trials, indicating that compassion is not only right, but also both medically and cost effective. He also argues that 'clinical detachment' does not exist, and that healthcare staff who demonstrate compassion cope better and burn out less easily.
For a summary of the talk, or to view the video, click on the link below:

Spray-on leg ulcer treatment unveiled
As reported in Nursing Times, 3 August, 2012, a (US) trial indicates that a scientifically developed “spray-on skin”, known as HP802-247, could greatly improve recovery from chronic leg ulcers, accelerating healing and improving the chances of wound closure.
The study results have been published online:
Spray-applied cell therapy with human allogeneic fibroblasts and keratinocytes for the treatment of chronic venous leg ulcers: a phase 2, multicentre, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial
Kirsner, R.S. et al. The Lancet, Early Online Publication, 3 August 2012
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(12)60644-8/fulltext

Nurse-led helpline launched by cancer charity - Nursing Times, 6 August, 2012
Welsh cancer charity, Tenovus, has launched a telephone service offering newly diagnosed patients a series of calls from an experienced nurse who will support them through treatment

DVT treatment alternative approved for use - Nursing Times, 4 August, 2012
NICE has recommended rivaroxaban (Xarelto) as an alternative to warfarin for the treatment of deep vein thrombosis in adults

Nurses pioneer 'dignity' pyjamas - Nursing Times, 6 August, 2012
Two nurses from the West Midlands have helped come up with a new design for hospital pyjamas — now on sale worldwide - that help preserve patients’ modesty, reduce discomfort and have clinical advantages for examination and scanning purposes

Caring about Care – RCN NI Conference
Europa Hotel, Belfast, Thursday 27 September 2012
The focus will be on caring for patients as people. There will be a wide range of presentations from frontline staff, senior clinicians, the RCN NI Nurse of the Year 2012 and guest speaker, Angela Rippon, in her capacity as Alzheimer’s Society ambassador

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