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Share your experience and expertise via online questionnaire

**2. New strategy to combat infections**  
Trusts urged to recruit extra staff

**3. Prevention is key to future of health care**  
PM sets out plans to expand screening and check-ups

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3. Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)
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## On the agenda

### 1. Play your part in Our NHS, Our Future

The Our NHS, Our Future team has launched the first of two online questionnaires to help more people play a part in the Review. With their experience and expertise, frontline staff are uniquely placed to give advice and will be able to make informed contributions on issues within the scope of the [national working groups](#).

Complete the staff/stakeholder [online questionnaire](#) before 15 February 2008. A questionnaire aimed at the public will be launched on 14 January and will be available until 25 February.

### 2. New strategy to combat infections

*Clean, Safe Care* is a comprehensive strategy to tackle healthcare associated infections like MRSA and C.difficile which has been published by the Department of Health (DH). As well as drawing together existing initiatives like annual infection control inspections and a deep clean for every hospital, it proposes some new ways for PCTs to invest the £270 million allocated for tackling this issue. These include recruiting extra infection control nurses and pharmacists, imposing stringent requirements on NHS foundation trust applicants and adding an element to tackle infection in the national tariff uplift.

[Access more information here](#)

### 3. Prevention is key to future of health care

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has unveiled a groundbreaking programme to place prevention at the heart of the NHS. In his New Year speech he said the NHS would introduce a series of preventive health checks to identify patients' vulnerability to heart and circulation problems. This would mean monitoring heart disease, strokes, diabetes and kidney disease - conditions which affect the lives of 6.2 million people, cause 200,000 deaths annually and account for a fifth of all hospital admissions. He said that for the first time an 'NHS offer' would be made to patients as part of an NHS constitution, describing what people can expect from the NHS and what they would receive in return. You will be able to read more in the next issue of **the month** later in January.

[Read the PM's speech](#)

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## Consultations and evaluations

### 1. National Capabilities Survey 2008 (Gateway reference number 9220 & ROCR reference number: ROCR/OR/0176/FT6/001)

The National Capabilities Survey (NCS) 2008 was launched on 8 January 2008. The NCS is a biennial survey led by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) of the Cabinet Office and is a cross-government measure that is intended to provide an accurate picture of national resilience. The link below leads to further information.

#### Link

[www.ukresilience.info](http://www.ukresilience.info)

#### Action

- NHS and local authority chief executives are expected to highlight the importance of this survey and need to fully support its organisation throughout its completion.

### 2. Improving end of life care environments (Gateway reference number 9296)

A new programme to improve environments for care at end of life. This Department of Health funded initiative follows the success of the King's Fund's award winning Enhancing the Healing Environment programme in England.

#### Link

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Endoflifecare/dh\\_081647](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Endoflifecare/dh_081647)

#### Action

- NHS chief executives interested in applying for the 20 available places can access further information and the application form at the link. The closing date for applications is the 22 February 2008.

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## Consultations and evaluations

### 3. Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA) (Gateway reference number 9303)

Vacancies exist for two employer members on the national ACCEA committee.

#### Link

[www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/accea/index.htm](http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/accea/index.htm)

#### Action

- NHS chief executives wishing to apply for these vacancies, please access the above link.

### 4. EC consultation on rare diseases (Gateway reference number 9323)

The DH will be responding to an EC consultation about EU-wide co-operation on the treatment of rare diseases, on behalf of the UK Health Departments.

#### Link

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_threats/non\\_com/cons\\_rare\\_dis\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/non_com/cons_rare_dis_en.htm)

#### Action

- NHS chief executives may wish to contribute, via: [steve.pugh@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:steve.pugh@dh.gsi.gov.uk) by 25 January 2008, or directly through the EC website.

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## Publications

### 5. Salaried dentistry – advance letter (Gateway reference number 9309)

The letter details new pay arrangements, and terms and conditions for primary care and salaried services dentists.

#### Link

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Advancedletters/DH\\_081715](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Advancedletters/DH_081715)

#### Action

- NHS trust and PCT chief executives should implement the new pay arrangements and terms and conditions.

### 6. Dialysis capacity (Gateway reference number 9289)

The National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, Donal O'Donoghue, discusses the serious implications of insufficient dialysis capacity in the linked letter below.

#### Link

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_081558](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_081558)

#### Action

- See letter that alerts PCT chief executives and specialised commissioning groups to the offer of support Donal O'Donoghue has made to SHAs in their dialysis planning, and assessment of local dialysis needs.

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## Publications

### 7. Dentists with a Special Interest (DwSIs) in conscious sedation (Gateway reference number: 9102)

This good practice document includes definitions, a competency framework, contract specification and monitoring, quality assessments and the scope of treatment that can be undertaken. The guidance will be of particular use to PCTs when reviewing all contracts for advanced mandatory services in conscious sedation within dentistry.

#### Link

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_081551](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081551)

#### Action

- PCT chief executives will be interested in this additional guidance supporting the commissioning of conscious sedation services in conjunction with the previous guidance issued in June 2007.

### 8. Join the cleanyourhands campaign (Gateway reference number: 9305)

The campaign has already been effective in changing many aspects of hand hygiene behaviour amongst healthcare workers in acute trusts and is now being extended to other NHS organisations.

#### Link

[www.npsa.nhs.uk/cleanyourhands](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/cleanyourhands)

#### Action

- Chief executives of primary care, ambulance, mental health and care trusts wishing to participate in the cleanyourhands campaign can access further information at the above link.

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## Publications

### 9. Patient transport service – revised eligibility (Gateway reference number: 9319)

The guidance contains an updated reference to that issued on the DH website (originally published 10 September 2007).

#### Link

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH\\_078374](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_078374)

#### Action

- NHS chief executives should note that their organisations consider the frequency of travel when assessing a patient's medical need for transportation.

### 10. Fitness for purpose – database updates (Gateway reference number: 8925)

The online database contains an overview of the data collected, which took place between May 2006 and March 2007, and launched in December 2007.

#### Link

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Commissioning/Policyguidanceandtoolkits/DH\\_081538](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Commissioning/Policyguidanceandtoolkits/DH_081538)

#### Action

- PCT and SHA chief executives will be interested in accessing their own detailed trust-specific and patch-wide assessments.

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## Patient safety alerts

### 11. Medical device alert – MDA/2007/100 (Gateway reference number: 9317)

**Device:** Volumetric infusion pump. Smiths Medical (Graseby) 500 and 505 volumetric infusion pumps – all models.

#### Link

[www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2033479&ssTargetNodeId=365](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2033479&ssTargetNodeId=365)

#### Action

- This Medical Device Alert was issued on 20 December 2007 to NHS trusts for **action**.

### 12. Medical device alert – MDA/2008/001 (Gateway reference number: 9318)

**Device:** All medical devices.

#### Link

[www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2033513&ssTargetNodeId=365](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2033513&ssTargetNodeId=365)

#### Action

- This Medical Device Alert was issued on 2 January 2008 to NHS trusts and social services for **action/update**.

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### General comments

If you would like to make general comments on the week please contact Amy Key by email at [theweek@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:theweek@dh.gsi.gov.uk) or by faxing 020 7972 5851 or by writing to Room 449, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Department of Health, London SW1A 2NS.