BMJ in the News is a weekly digest of BMJ stories, plus any other news about the company that has appeared in the national and a selection of English-speaking international media.

This week’s (23 Feb - 1 Mar) highlights include:

**The BMJ**

**Head to head: Is a smoking ban in UK parks and outdoor spaces a good idea?**

Experts debate smoking ban in outdoor public spaces - BBC News 25/2/15
Call for public smoking ban splits anti-tobacco lobby - Politics 25/2/15
Call for New York-style ban on smoking in public in UK - Guardian 26/2/15

Also covered by the Express, Nottingham Post, Nursing in Practice, Daily Mail and OnMedica.

**Research: Length of hospital stay after hip fracture and short term risk of death after discharge: a total cohort study in Sweden**

**Editorial: Length of hospital stay after hip fracture**

Hip fracture patients more likely to die if released within five days - Telegraph 24/2/15
Shorter hospital stays 'linked to higher mortality risk after hip fracture' - Nursing Times 24/2/15
OAPs who break their hip are more likely to die if they are discharged from hospital early - Mirror 24/2/15


**Personal View: Private healthcare providers in India are above the law, leaving patients without protection**

**Feature: Whistleblowing in India: what protections can doctors who raise concerns expect?**

Doctors in India profiteering from sick patients - Reuters 24/2/15
Report highlights malpractice in Indian healthcare sector - LiveMint 25/2/15
Indian doctors shed light on massive medical procedure scandal - Sydney Morning Herald 28/2/15

Also covered by Business Standard, Hindustan Times, Daijiworld, New Kerala, Morung Express, Health24, AsiaOne, Medical Xpress and Zee News.
Research: Change in mental health after smoking cessation: systematic review and meta-analysis

Continued media coverage:
Anxiety & depression more common among smokers - Cancer Research UK 24/2/15
Smokers are 70% more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression - Daily Mail 24/2/15

Research: Current hydration guidelines are erroneous: dehydration does not impair exercise performance in the heat

Ease Up on the Water During That Marathon - Washington Post 23/2/15

Editorial: The unknown risks of youth rugby

Continued media coverage:
Ditch children's protective gear and teach rugby properly, says Tindall - The Daily Telegraph 23/2/2015

Investigation: Sugar: spinning a web of influence

Continued media coverage:
Revealed: PR firm for the government's obesity campaign works for fast-food giants including Mars, KFC and Walkers crisps - Daily Mail & Scottish Daily Mail 23/2/15

Research: Mediterranean diet and telomere length in Nurses' Health Study: population based cohort study

Continued media coverage:
Could olive oil be the latest weapon against cancer? - Daily Mail 23/2/15

Research: Televised medical talk shows-what they recommend and the evidence to support their recommendations: a prospective observational study

Can superfoods reduce your risk of cancer? - New Zealand Herald 23/2/15

Research: Day of week of procedure and 30 day mortality for elective surgery: retrospective analysis of hospital episode statistics

NHS chief: poor weekend care leaving vulnerable patients feeling unsafe - Guardian 1/3/15

Head to head: Are condoms the answer to rising rates of non-HIV sexually transmitted infection?

Empower parents as main sexuality educators - Straits Times, The (Singapore) 21/2/15
Blog: #smallthingsbigwins: The power of the voice is amplified when the message is of gratitude

Small Things Big Wins in Health Care - Huffington Post 25/2/15

Research: Dietary sugars and body weight: systematic review and meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials and cohort studies

Are carb cravings a red herring or is sugar addiction a thing? - Mail & Guardian

Research: Massachusetts health reform and disparities in joint replacement use: difference in differences study

Insurance coverage expansion in Massachusetts increases knee, hip replacement procedures by 4.7% - Medical News Today 27/2/15

The Tories haven't broken their promise on the NHS. They've just broken its terms - Guardian 26/2/15

Research: Differential risk of death in older residents in nursing homes prescribed specific antipsychotic drugs: population based cohort study

Antipsychotics shouldn't be a default drug for dementia - The Global & Mail 1/3/15

Research: The Darwin Awards: sex differences in idiotic behaviour

Continued media coverage:
Ben's work gets global attention - Morpeth Herald 27/2/15

Research: Divorce among physicians and other healthcare professionals in the United States: analysis of census survey data

Continued media coverage:
Doctors less likely to divorce, study suggests - Marilyn Stowe blog 27/2/15

Mention of Richard Smith’s blog post on dying on BBC Radio 4 Inside Health 24/2/15

Obituary: Sir Anthony Grabham - The Times & The Times Ireland 24/1/15
**Journals**

**Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health**

Research: *Are fluoride levels in drinking water associated with hypothyroidism prevalence in England? A large observational study of GP practice data and fluoride levels in drinking water*

*Fluoride in our water linked to thyroid problem* - Daily Mail 24/2/15  
*Water Fluoridation May Increase Risk of Underactive Thyroid Disorder* - Newsweek 24/2/15  
*Studies linking fluoride in water to health issues prompt Australian review* – Sydney Morning Herald 24/2/15


**Tobacco Control**

Research: *The revision of the 2014 European tobacco products directive: an analysis of the tobacco industry’s attempts to ‘break the health silo’*

*Tobacco industry waged 'David and Goliath' campaign against EU* - The Independent (wrongly attributed to The BMJ) 24/2/15  
*Tobacco industry tried to derail European anti-smoking legislation* - Cancer Research UK 24/2/15  
"Massive" lobbying power of tobacco companies diluted European regulation of cigarettes, study shows - Mirror 24/2/15

Also covered by HealthCanal and Medical Xpress.

**Journal of Medical Ethics**

Research: *Trends in animal use at US research facilities*

*Animal experimentation up 73 percent, study says* - CBS News 26/2/15  
*PETA study finds 'dramatic' rise in use of lab animals in United States* - Science Insider 25/2/15

**Occupational & Environmental Medicine**

**Research:** Factors associated with the length of fit-note certified sickness episodes in the UK

- Mental illness behind a third of all sick leave - The Times & The Times Ireland 24/2/15
- Fit notes' changing the culture of long-term sick - The Daily Telegraph 24/2/15


**British Journal of Sports Medicine**

**Research:** Communicating the risk of injury in schoolboy rugby

- If your child plays rugby, read this! - Daily Mail & Scottish Daily Mail 24/2/15

**Editorial:** Exercise is medicine and physicians need to prescribe it!

- Studies Find Exercise Is the Best Medicine for Many Ills - Sudan Vision Daily 26/2/15

**Veterinary Record**

- Tories vow to continue badger cull if they win - The Times (& The Times Scotland / The Times Ireland) 25/2/15

**Open Heart**

**Research:** Evidence from randomised controlled trials did not support the introduction of dietary fat guidelines in 1977 and 1983: a systematic review and meta-analysis

- Don't munch on bacon sandwiches, have steak with butter and drink whole milk - Daily Mail 26/2/15 (wrongly attributed to BMJ)
- Is butter bad for us? A Cambridge expert reveals all - Cambridge News 24/2/15

Better science behind new dietary guidelines - Business Times 25/2/15 (link unavailable)

**BMJ Open**

**Research:** Abortion legislation, maternal healthcare, fertility, female literacy, sanitation, violence against women and maternal deaths: a natural experiment in 32 Mexican states

- Study Finds Better Maternal Health With Less Permissive Abortion Laws - Market Wired 23/2/15