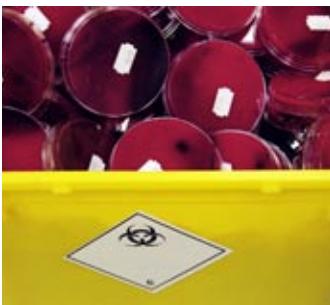




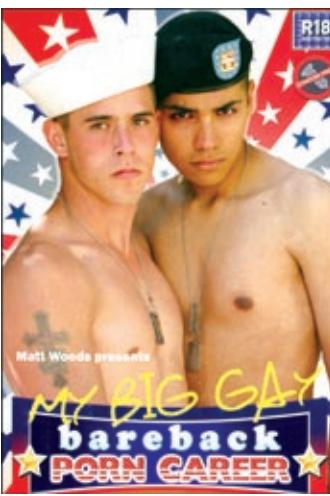
Trial vaccine might stop Ebola fever, p 736



Climate and humanitarian costs, p 734



Hospitals slow to recycle, p 746



Gay porn erodes safe sex messages, p 775

**EDITORIALS**

- 725 Mortality and cancer from chemical weapons testing**  
Risk is not increased, but some health questions remain, says Malcolm R Sim  
*» Research, pp 749, 754*
- 726 Treatment of depression in primary care**  
Incentivised care is no substitute for professional judgment, say Chris van Weel, Evelyn van Weel-Baumgarten, and Eric van Rijswijk  
*» Research, pp 761, 762*
- 727 Tocolytics and preterm labour**  
Whether to treat or not is the real dilemma, not which drug to use, say Andrew Carlin, Jane Norman, Stephen Cole, and Roger Smith  
*» Research, p 758*
- 728 Environmental waste in health care**  
Must be reduced for the overall carbon reduction strategy to succeed, says Gabriel Scally  
*» Feature, p 742, Analysis p 746*
- 729 Managing UK research data for future use**  
The *BMJ* is now asking authors for data sharing statements, says Trish Groves

**LETTERS**

- 731 Turning old age into a disease?; "Public-researcher partnership"**
- 732 Aid money wasted, says Oxfam; Resting heart rate as predictor; Restructuring the NHS**

**NEWS**

- 733 US sues company for off-label promotion of drugs for children**  
People with learning needs were treated "less favourably"
- 734 Study shows possible increase in survival from NHS cancer plan**  
Climate change could engulf relief agencies, experts warn
- 735 Healthcare commission claims it has succeeded in improving standards**
- 736 NICE calls for end to "reflex" sick notes from GPs in England**
- 736 HIV prevalence in US capital matches some African nations**  
WHO increases its estimate of TB deaths associated with HIV
- 737 Trial vaccine may have saved Hamburg scientist from Ebola fever**
- 737 Pope's claims that condoms exacerbate HIV and AIDS problem attract wide condemnation**
- 738 Will "people's regulator" adopt a heavier approach than former commission?**  
Luxembourg is to become third country to allow euthanasia
- 739 "Honour killings" are a public health problem for Pakistan**

**SHORT CUTS**

- 740 What's new in the other general journals**

**FEATURES**

- 742 Saving the planet as well as lives**  
The NHS has committed to reducing its carbon footprint, but has it got the influence required to produce the necessary changes?  
Andrew Cole reports

**OBSERVATIONS****YANKEE DOODLING**

- 745 The papal position on condoms and HIV**  
Douglas Kamerow

**ANALYSIS**

- 746 Coming round to recycling**  
Increasing numbers of people are trying to reduce and recycle their domestic waste, but hospitals have been slower to get the message. David Hutchins and Stuart White look at the potential environmental and financial benefits

**RESEARCH, CLINICAL REVIEW, AND PRACTICE** See next page**OBITUARIES**

- 733 Dan Enachescu; Frederick Charles Hurrell; Mary Ross Kerr; Martin Lowy; Maurice Parsonage; William Ian Paterson; Ellen Mali Schiffman**

**VIEWS AND REVIEWS****PERSONAL VIEW**

- 775 How gay porn undermines safe sex campaigns**  
Richard Hurley

**REVIEW OF THE WEEK**

- 776 Drug truths**  
Allen F Shaughnessy

**BETWEEN THE LINES**

- 777 The greatest torture**  
Theodore Dalrymple

**MEDICAL CLASSICS**

- Neurological Differential Diagnosis**  
David Shooman

**COLUMNISTS**

- 778 Squaring circle time Des Spence**  
Wii-habilitation Liam Farrell

**ENDGAMES**

- 779 Picture quiz; On examination quiz; Statistical question**

**MINERVA**

- 780 Daily simvastatin and hospital costs, and other stories**

Can the NHS reduce its carbon footprint? p 742

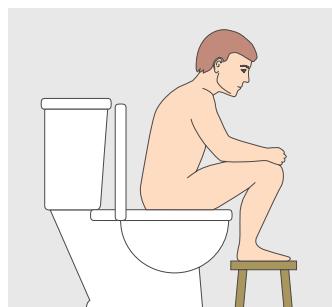




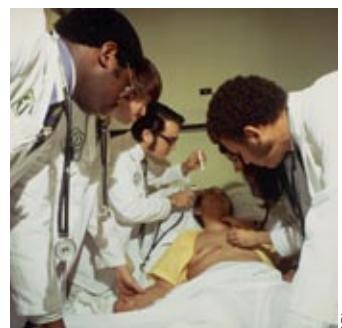
Chemical weapons, pp 749, 754



Tocolytic drugs for preterm labour, p 758



Chronic constipation in adults, p 763



Teaching on a ward round, p 770

## RESEARCH

### 749 Mortality in British military participants in human experimental research into chemical warfare agents at Porton Down: cohort study

Researchers find no evidence of an excess cancer risk for UK veterans who spent time at the chemical weapons research facility at Porton Down. No consistent pattern of cancers emerges from data on nine different chemicals

K M Venables, C Brooks, L Linsell, T J Keegan, T Langdon, T Fletcher, M J Nieuwenhuijsen, N E S Maconochie, P Doyle, V Beral, L M Carpenter

» Editorial p 725

» Research p 754

### 754 Cancer morbidity in British military veterans included in chemical warfare agent experiments at Porton Down: cohort study

UK veterans exposed to chemical agents between 1941 and 1989 have a slightly higher all cause mortality than other veterans (rate ratio 1.06, 95% CI 1.03 to 1.10). It's impossible to rule in or rule out a causal link between the two with currently available data

L M Carpenter, L Linsell, C Brooks, T J Keegan, T Langdon, P Doyle, N E S Maconochie, T Fletcher, M J Nieuwenhuijsen, V Beral, K M Venables

» Editorial p 725

» Research p 749

### 758 Adverse drug reactions to tocolytic treatment for preterm labour: prospective cohort study

Combinations of tocolytic drugs for preterm labour are associated with a high risk of adverse drug reactions. Atosiban looks like one of the safest treatment options in this study of 1920 women from the Netherlands and Belgium

Roel de Heus, Ben Willem Mol, Jan-Jaap H M Erwich, Herman P van Geijn, Wilfried J Gyselaers, Myriam Hanssens, Linda Härmäk, Caroline D van Holsbeke, Johannes J Duvekot, Fred F A M Schobben, Hans Wolf, Gerard H A Visser

» Editorial p 727

### 761 Management of depression in UK general practice in relation to scores on depression severity questionnaires: analysis of medical record data

pico

Among nearly 2300 patients prescriptions and referrals were significantly associated with higher scores, but the different questionnaires' threshold scores for intervention varied and didn't always match doctors' clinical judgment

Tony Kendrick, Christopher Dowrick, Anita McBride, Amanda Howe, Pamela Clarke, Sue Maisey, Michael Moore, Peter W Smith

» Editorial p 726

### 762 Patients' and doctors' views on depression severity questionnaires incentivised in UK quality and outcomes framework: qualitative study

pico

Among 34 general practitioners and 24 patients the doctors favoured clinical judgment over questionnaires but patients thought questionnaires added objective evidence on their health

Christopher Dowrick, Geraldine M Leydon, Anita McBride, Amanda Howe, Hana Burgess, Pamela Clarke, Sue Maisey, Tony Kendrick

» Editorial p 726

## CLINICAL REVIEW

### 763 Chronic constipation in adults

Iain J D McCallum, Sarah Ong, Mark Mercer-Jones

## PRACTICE

### 767 Guidelines: Rehabilitation after critical illness: summary of NICE guidance

This is one of a series of BMJ summaries of new guidelines, which are based on the best available evidence

Toni Tan, Stephen J Brett, Tim Stokes, on behalf of the Guideline Development Group

### 770 Teaching rounds: Teaching on a ward round

This series provides an update on practical teaching methods for busy clinicians who teach

Jean Ker, Peter Cantillon, Lucy Ambrose

28 March 2009 Vol 338

**The Editor, BMJ**

BMA House, Tavistock Square,  
London WC1H 9JR

Email: editor@bmj.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7387 4499

Fax: +44 (0)20 7383 6418

**BMA MEMBERS' INQUIRIES**

Email: membership@bma.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6642

**BMJ CAREERS ADVERTISING**

Email: sales@bmjcareers.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6531

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING**

Email: sales@bmjgroup.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6386

**REPRINTS**

UK/Rest of world

Email: ngurneyrandall@bmjgroup.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 8445 5825

USA

Email: mfogler@medicalreprints.com

Tel: +1 (856) 489 4446

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

BMA Members

Email: membership@bma.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6642

Non-BMA Members

Email: subscriptions@bmjgroup.com

Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6270

**OTHER RESOURCES**

For all other contacts:

resources.bmj.com/bmj/contact-us

For advice to authors:

resources.bmj.com/bmj/authors

To submit an article:

submit.bmj.com



The BMJ is published by BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Medical Association.

The BMA grants editorial freedom to the Editor of the BMJ. The views expressed in the journal are those of the authors and may not necessarily comply with BMA policy. The BMJ follows guidelines on editorial independence produced by the World Association of Medical Editors ([www.wame.org/wamestmt.htm#independence](http://www.wame.org/wamestmt.htm#independence)) and the code on good publication practice produced by the Committee on Publication Ethics ([www.publicationethics.org.uk/guidelines/](http://www.publicationethics.org.uk/guidelines/)).

The BMJ is intended for medical professionals and is provided without warranty, express or implied. Statements in the journal are the responsibility of their authors and advertisers and not authors' institutions, the BMJ Publishing Group, or the BMA unless otherwise specified or determined by law. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the BMJ Publishing Group shall not be liable for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from the use of the BMJ or any information in it whether based on contract, tort, or otherwise. Readers are advised to verify any information they choose to rely on.

©BMJ Publishing Group Ltd 2009  
All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any other means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission, in writing, of the BMJ.

Published weekly. US periodicals class postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to BMJ, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA. \$796. Weekly  
Printed by Precision Colour Printing Limited



REUTERS/ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Demonstrators hold condoms outside St Peter's Square at the Vatican to commemorate people who have died from AIDS related illness and to protest against the pope's comments during his trip to Africa. "You can't resolve it [AIDS] with the distribution of condoms," he said. "On the contrary, it increases the problem." See News, p 737, and Observations, p 745.

## THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

**0.7%** Incidence of serious adverse drug reaction after tocolytic treatment in preterm labour (Research, p 758)

**110 000** People are admitted to critical care units in England and Wales a year, of whom 75% survive to be discharged home (Practice, p 767)

**£120 000** Compensation recommended after an investigation found "significant and distressing failures" in the care of six people with learning disabilities in England (News, p 733)

**18.6 million tonnes** English NHS carbon dioxide emissions in 2004, equivalent to a quarter of all public sector emissions and 3.2% of the country's total footprint (Feature, p 742)

## THE WEEK IN QUOTES

"Depression severity measures may have benefits, by increasing patients' confidence that doctors are taking their mental health seriously" (Research, p 762)

"A more inclusive definition of chronic constipation: any patient experiencing consistent difficulty with defecation" (Clinical Review, p 763)

"Is the 24th non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug that much better than the first few?" (Review of the Week, p 776)

"I see daily the iatrogenic effects of overtreatment of older patients that is partly driven by a box ticking, target oriented culture" (Letter, p 731)

"A GP could be doing more harm than good by writing a reflex sickness certificate" (News, p 735)

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## What's your carbon reduction strategy?



KEystone/Stringer/Getty Images

**Editorial, p 725**  
**Research, pp 749, 754**

Back in 2006 I wrote an Editor's Choice called "What did you do about climate change Mum?" (*BMJ* 2006;332:10 June). It suggested that doctors might start measuring their carbon footprint. The most interesting thing about this short piece was the response it received on [bmj.com](http://www.bmjjournals.org/cgi/eletters/332/7554/0-f) ([www.bmjjournals.org/cgi/eletters/332/7554/0-f](http://www.bmjjournals.org/cgi/eletters/332/7554/0-f)). What was this stuff doing in a medical journal? What was I doing uncritically accepting the propaganda of the global warming lobby?

Things have changed since then. WHO's director general Margaret Chan has called climate change the biggest public health challenge of the 21st century. And last week the UN and Red Cross warned that a humanitarian crisis caused by droughts, floods, storms, and heatwaves could overwhelm relief agencies (p 734). Most chilling for me was a comment at a meeting at the Royal College of Physicians last year. When asked what people should do about climate change, Tom Burke of Rio Tinto said "Don't be under 40."

So although some will question the need for action, most are likely to say we're not doing nearly enough. This was the response from many to the new NHS carbon reduction strategy. But as Andrew Cole reports, its targets—to cut emissions by 10% by 2015 and 80% by 2050—are ambitious (p 742). A big chunk will have to come from NHS procurement, especially from drugs and equipment, using the NHS's purchasing power to get suppliers to adopt greener technology and getting us all to use less of everything. As David Hutchins and Stuart White explain (p 746), health services can reduce, reuse, and recycle just like everyone else. For its part, the *BMJ* is embarking

on its own carbon reduction programme. As a small part of this, the journal is now printed on 100% recycled paper.

Meanwhile, there's a new guide to sustainable development from the Faculty of Public Health. NHS Kidney Care is funding the first ever "green nephrology fellowship" (p 738); and the people at [www.carbonaddict.org](http://www.carbonaddict.org) have identified "carbon dependency syndrome." As well as their advice on sourcing food ("Seasonal and local (unless living next door to an intensive beef farm)") they give some startling facts. If everyone in the UK stopped eating meat on one day a week, this would equate to taking five million cars off the road.

Action by individuals and organisations is important. It will help to reduce carbon use and change our culture. But real progress will need action by governments. This doesn't mean we can sit back and do nothing. Governments need permission to take unpopular decisions, especially during an economic downturn. In December in Copenhagen the world's leaders will update their carbon commitments. The Climate and Health Council ([www.climateandhealth.org](http://www.climateandhealth.org)) wants to ensure that the health effects of climate change are fully acknowledged in these discussions. Nearly 2000 doctors and senior health care managers have already signed the council's pledge. To influence the debate in Copenhagen we would like 10 000 signatures. If you do one thing today, go to the council website and sign the pledge.

**Fiona Godlee, editor, [BMJ\\_fgodlee@bmj.com](mailto:BMJ_fgodlee@bmj.com)**

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2009;338:b1272

## 100% recycled

The *BMJ* is printed on 100% recycled paper

Articles appearing in this print journal have already been published on [bmj.com](http://bmj.com), and the version in print may have been shortened.

[bmj.com](http://bmj.com) also contains material that is supplementary to articles: this will be indicated in the text (references are given as w1, w2, etc) and be labelled as extra on [bmj.com](http://bmj.com).

Please cite all articles by year, volume, and elocator (rather than page number), eg *BMJ* 2009;338:b145. A note on how to cite each article appears at the end of each article, and this is the form the reference will take in PubMed and other indexes.

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE BMJ GROUP

**Best Practice—NEW from the BMJ Evidence Centre**

Best Practice is a new decision-support tool that combines the latest research evidence with expert opinion and guidelines. Sign up for your free trial today

[bestpractice.bmjjournals.com](http://bestpractice.bmjjournals.com)

**Have you signed up for job alerts from BMJ Careers yet?**

Register today and make your job search that bit easier. You can set up personalised alerts and we'll send you an email when new jobs appear online

[Set up your alerts at careers.bmjjournals.com](http://careers.bmjjournals.com)

**Less than 2 weeks until early bird offer ends!**

BMJ Masterclass for GPs: Respiratory Medicine Wednesday 20 May 2009—BMA House, London. Register by Monday 6 April and save up to £30

[masterclasses.bmjjournals.com/GPs](http://masterclasses.bmjjournals.com/GPs)

**The latest reviews from Clinical Evidence**

Recent updates to the website include influenza, trigeminal neuralgia and a new review on brain metastases

[clincalevidence.bmjjournals.com](http://clincalevidence.bmjjournals.com)



**BMJ Careers**

**PLUS**

Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 778.

## WHAT'S NEW ON BMJ.COM

### LATEST RESEARCH

#### Larval therapy for leg ulcers

Treatment with loose or bagged larvae does not reduce the time that it takes leg ulcers to heal compared with hydrogel. But larvae are a more effective debriding agent than hydrogel, according to the VenUS II randomised controlled trial. The accompanying cost effectiveness analysis confirms that larval therapy is likely to produce similar health benefits and have similar costs to treatment with hydrogel.



SCIENCE SPL

#### Predicting risk of type 2 diabetes in England and Wales

The QDScore algorithm estimates the 10 year risk of diabetes including both ethnicity and social deprivation and could help to identify people at high risk before they develop the disease. An editorial accompanying this prospective derivation and validation study of QDScore says that incorporation into practice computer programmes would not increase doctors' daily workload. But it may not be feasible for people in developing countries with limited access to computers.

**Access these and other research papers at [www.bmjjournals.org/channels/research.dtl](http://www.bmjjournals.org/channels/research.dtl)**

### LATEST BLOGS



EVERETT COLLECTION/REX

General practitioner registrar Tauseef Mehrali watches a film depicting brutal social realism as part of a training session on child protection: "We were challenged to investigate our own triggers for initiating child safeguarding proceedings and to confront subconsciously held stereotypes: is the failing of a parent to conform to our own usually middle class social norms a justifiable trigger? Perhaps more importantly, is conforming sufficient reason to overlook? ... The UK is the worst developed nation in which to be a child, according to both UNICEF and the Good Childhood Inquiry. General practitioners are at the forefront and therefore perfectly placed to guide a redressing of the balance. Encouraging trainees to discuss these issues in novel ways can only help this process."

To comment on these and other blogs, go to <http://blogs.bmjjournals.org/bmj/>

### LATEST PODCASTS

Last week's podcast came from the International Forum for Quality and Safety in Healthcare in Berlin. We have a few highlights from interviews with delegates about the issues they're hoping to resolve. Deborah Cohen talks to Ryan Truscott in Harare about the current health situation in Zimbabwe and the problems that the new government faces.

This week's podcast includes an interview with the lead author of a study about mortality in British military participants in human experimental research into chemical warfare agents at Porton Down.

Listen to this and other podcasts at <http://podcasts.bmjjournals.org/bmj/>



SPL

### Last week's poll asked:

**Will doctor rating sites improve standards of care?**

**Yes** 26 votes (30%)

**No** 60 votes (70%)

### This week's poll asks:

Should people at risk of reinfarction have defibrillators available at home?

**Submit your vote at [bmjjournals.org](http://bmjjournals.org)**

### MOST COMMENTED ON

Larval therapy for leg ulcers (VenUS II): randomised controlled trial

Stop de-legitimising Israel and politicising your journal

High court rejects challenge to NICE guidelines on chronic fatigue syndrome

Resting heart rate as a low tech predictor of coronary events in women: prospective cohort study

Perils of criticising Israel



# Time for a break? Refresh yourself.

## BMJ Masterclasses

[masterclasses.bmjjournals.org](http://masterclasses.bmjjournals.org)

