

THIS WEEK

Articles in this print journal have already been published on thebmj.com and may have been shortened. Full versions with references and competing interests are on thebmj.com



NEWS & VIEWS

- 1 News and research news
- 6 **BMJ Confidential:** Laura Piddock

FEATURES

- 16 A Herculean task for the Olympics borough
Zosia Kmietowicz

HEAD TO HEAD

- 18 Does long term use of psychiatric drugs cause more harm than good?
Peter C Gøtzsche, and Allan H Young and John Grace

ANALYSIS

- 20 **COVER** Choosing Wisely in the UK: reducing the harms of too much medicine
A Malhotra et al

VIEWS

- 15 Personal view
- 22 Letters
- 24 Observations
- 25 Observations
- 26 Margaret McCartney Blog
- 27 Obituaries



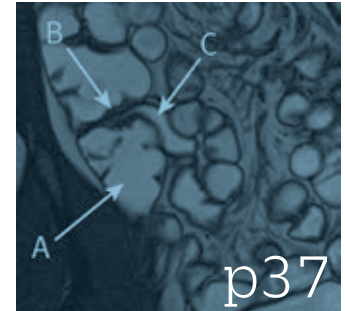
EDITORIALS

- 7 **COVER** Prospects for the NHS in England in the next parliament
Investment and reform should be at the heart of the new government's programme
Chris Ham
- 8 Safety of psychotropic drugs in pregnancy
Reassuring findings on antidepressants and antipsychotics from the largest studies to date
Hind Khalifeh et al
● RESEARCH, pp 11, 12
- 9 **COVER** Who should be vaccinated against HPV?
The focus for lower income countries should remain on cervical cancer prevention
Karen Canfell
● RESEARCH, p 13
- 10 Politics, medical journals, the medical profession and the Israel lobby
Criticism of the Israeli government does not necessarily equate with antisemitism
John S Yudkin and Jennifer Leaning



RESEARCH

- 11 Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and venlafaxine in early pregnancy and risk of birth defects: population based cohort study and sibling design
Kari Furu et al
● EDITORIAL, p 8
● RESEARCH, p 12
- 12 Antipsychotic drug use in pregnancy: high dimensional, propensity matched, population based cohort study
Simone N Vigod et al
● EDITORIAL, p 8
● RESEARCH, p 11
- 13 Direct benefit of vaccinating boys along with girls against oncogenic human papillomavirus: bayesian evidence synthesis
Johannes A Bogaards et al
● EDITORIAL, p 9
- 14 Autism phenotype versus registered diagnosis in Swedish children: prevalence trends over 10 years in general population samples
Sebastian Lundström et al



EDUCATION

CLINICAL REVIEW

- 29 **COVER** Identifying and managing common childhood language and speech impairments
Sheena Reilly et al
● thebmj.com
1 CPD/CME hour

PRACTICE

UNCERTAINTIES

- 33 **COVER** Assessment of chest pain in a low risk patient: is the exercise tolerance test obsolete?
Kevin Barraclough et al
- 37 Endgames
- 38 Minerva



Common childhood language and speech impairments
● CLINICAL REVIEW, p 29

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) and the code on good publication practice produced by the Committee on Publication Ethics (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 2014 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 Polestar Limited



The Editor, *The BMJ*
BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JR

Email: editor@bmj.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7387 4410
Fax: +44 (0)20 7383 6418

BMA MEMBERS' ENQUIRIES
Email: membership@bma.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6531

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: mfgler@medicalreprints.com
Tel: +1 (856) 489 4446

SUBSCRIPTIONS
BMA Members
Email: membership@bma.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)20 7383 6955
Non-BMA Members
Email: support@bmjgroup.com
Tel: +44 (0)20 7111 1105

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.

INDEXING THE BMJ
The BMJ is an online journal and we therefore recommend that you index content from thebmj.com rather than this print edition. We suggest you use the Digital Object Identifier (doi) available online at the top of every article.

 **recycle**
When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.
The BMJ is printed on 100% recycled paper (except the cover)



JAMES GHAHUE/REUTERS

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A man walks on stilts in Monrovia during an official celebration of Liberia being declared Ebola-free by the Liberian government and World Health Organization this week. More than 4700 people had died there during a year-long epidemic.

THEBMJ.COM POLL

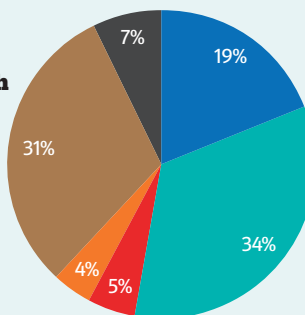
Last week's poll asked:

What should the new UK health secretary's top priority be?

- Mental health
- NHS finance
- Cancer
- Waiting times
- Workforce
- Other

Total votes cast: 141

● **BMJ 2015;350:h2299**



This week's poll:

Is private practice unethical?

● **BMJ 2015;350:h2299**

VOTE NOW ON THEBMJ.COM



MALCOLM WILLET

thebmj podcasts

Talk medicine

Listen to what you want, when you want, and how you want



thebmj.com/podcasts

Download any QR code reader on your smartphone and scan this code to start listening

Online highlights from thebmj.com



15 MAY 1915

A special war correspondent in northern France has begun to see regular “gas poisoning” casualties. He observes that the gas—at this stage its composition is unknown—seems to affect the patient in four distinct stages: the initial asphyxiation, followed by a secondary slowly increasing asphyxia, then a period where the patient appears to recover, and finally a worsening of symptoms. The correspondent notes that “apart from breathlessness, one of the chief complaints made by the lighter cases is that all food they try to take is nauseous to them; it tastes so much of gas.”

• [BMJ 1915;1:861](#)

POPULAR ONLINE

Austerity, sanctions, and the rise of food banks in the UK

• [BMJ 2015;350:h1775](#)

Serotonin and depression

• [BMJ 2015;350:h1771](#)

The Darwin Awards: sex differences in idiotic behaviour

• [BMJ 2014;349:g7094](#)

A letter to the next secretary of state for health

• [BMJ 2015;350:h2296](#)

Efficacy and safety of paracetamol for spinal pain and osteoarthritis

• [BMJ 2015;350:h2296](#)



RESPONSE OF THE WEEK

Challenge: usually a problem, but with a nasty shift of responsibility.

Give me a challenge, and if I fail it has somehow become my fault.

With a problem, we share the responsibility if it doesn't work out.

Difficult to engage with: Perhaps an inflexible service that is not accommodating and puts people off . . .

David Berger, district medical officer, emergency medicine, Broome Hospital, Australia, in response to: “Top Medicare billing doctor is arrested for fraud.”

Last week's response of the week was wrongly attributed to David Berger. It was in fact Patrín H Y Caldwell, doctor, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, in response to, “Can mobile phones transform healthcare in low and middle income countries?”

• [BMJ 2015;350:h2091](#)

LATEST BLOGS

Keeping the NHS alive

The NHS has to change radically if it is to survive, declares Richard Smith. The question is, how do you change such a monolith—a service that is soaked in ideology? The current answer, he says, is “from the bottom, not the top.”

• <http://bmj.co/keepingnhsalive>

More on predatory journals

“There are no easy or legal remedies as of yet to stop predatory journals,” says Jocalyn Clark, who thinks that the problem is getting worse. She shares some solutions in her latest blog

• http://bmj.co/predatory_journals

Lessons from Baltimore

In the wake of the recent riots in Baltimore, USA, Art Cohen and Selwyn I Ray ask what lessons can be learnt and what can be done to reduce the deep economic, social, and health inequalities at the root of the unrest.

http://bmj.co/baltimore_riots



Minding our language around care for older people

David Oliver laments that ageist terminology still remains far from taboo. In media representations, older people are occasionally vilified, often mocked, and usually patronised. Sadly, he says, clinical staff aren't guiltless in this either, and we need to face up to how language can shape the way we practice

• <http://bmj.co/languageolder>

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

David Oliver @manuncianmedic

My @bmj_latest blog from yesterday: ageist language in healthcare and society, and how it shapes attitudes to older people <http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2015/05/07/david-oliver-minding-our-language-around-care-for-older-people/> ...

Philly Hare @philly_hare

@manuncianmedic Great blog David.Will @bmj_latest pls sign Call to Action <http://bitly.com/1bhppzh> on #dementiawords? pic.twitter.com/Zz95oYwblo

David Oliver @manuncianmedic

@philly_hare @bmj_latest but I do agree that we need to avoid “demented” “senile” “sufferer” etc, as they engender depersonalising attitudes

Philly Hare @philly_hare

@manuncianmedic Grateful to you publicising the issue, David, please use any influence to get signatories in media and medicine!



EDITOR'S CHOICE

We are our choices

The BMJ is throwing its weight behind Choosing Wisely, as part of our Too Much Medicine campaign

You can help shape The BMJ

We want to make *The BMJ* into the most informative, useful and enjoyable experience for you, our readers (and lapsed readers). You're invited to contribute by joining our user panel. If you join, we'll send you occasional invitations to user research and new product ideas about *The BMJ*.

If you'd like to get involved just register your email address with us at:

• <http://bit.do/bmj>

All feedback is optional and you can unsubscribe at any time. We hope you'll join us soon!

Twitter

• Follow the editor, Fiona Godlee @fgodlee, and *The BMJ* at twitter.com/bmj_latest

As the fog of post-election hyperbole lifts, the NHS is still there and still beset by the same pre-election problems. Anyone remaining hazy as to what these are should read the editorial by Chris Ham (p 7), who is one of the country's most authoritative guides to the NHS.

"Failure to provide further funding beyond current plans either means accepting growing deficits within the NHS, or insisting that NHS organisations reduce their costs to live within available budgets," writes Ham. "This may require unpalatable choices such as cutting back on staff or reducing activity—with effects on quality of care and waiting times." The alternative, improving productivity to realise £22bn in efficiency savings, is unlikely by the end of this parliament. Instead, care will have to be transformed, concludes Ham. This looks like being the NHS's main challenge for the next five years.

Choosing Wisely, a clinically led initiative from the US, could help (p 20). As Aseem Malhotra and colleagues explain, this programme aims to stop doctors using tests or procedures unsupported by evidence. It begins with medical organisations compiling lists of the five interventions that should be stopped in their specialty. So far 60 US specialist societies have joined the initiative, and the model has been adopted in other countries. *The BMJ* is throwing its weight behind Choosing Wisely, as part of our Too Much Medicine campaign (thebmj.com/too-much-medicine).

Change has also been afoot in the world of general medical journals, with one editor escorted off the premises by human resources and another the subject of a petition for his removal. Stephen Leeder was fired as editor of the *Medical Journal of Australia* because he disagreed with the decision of its owner to outsource

production of the journal to Reed Elsevier. Richard Smith, a former editor of *The BMJ*, provides an informed commentary (p 26).

Richard Horton, current *Lancet* editor, is not going anywhere just yet. Horton has taken a longstanding interest in the health of people in the occupied Palestinian territories, publishing a series on the topic in 2009. In July 2014, two weeks into Israel's latest military operation in the Gaza Strip, the *Lancet* published an open letter for the people of Gaza, "denouncing what we witness in the aggression of Gaza by Israel." The *Lancet's* handling of criticisms of the open letter, and particularly the undeclared competing interests of some of its 24 signatories, has left many angry. Some 400 physicians and scientists, headed by five Nobel laureates, have now accused the *Lancet's* publisher, Reed Elsevier, "of irresponsible and unethical business practice—profiting from the publication of dishonest and malicious material that incites hatred and violence."

In their editorial John Yudkin and Jennifer Leaning look at some of the factual claims made in the open letter—and find that multiple sources support them (p 10). Yudkin and Leaning characterise the *Lancet's* accusers as bullies, intent on closing down debate on Israel's actions. "Yet to avoid such debate is to remain obdurately silent in the face of important trends and events that impact negatively on the wellbeing of individuals and groups," they say. "Inevitably, controversy will ensue, but this is a healthy aspect of public discourse on political matters."

Who could disagree?

Tony Delamothe, deputy editor, *The BMJ*
tdelamothe@bmj.com

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2015;350:h2609




Be kept up to date with the latest developments in health care and interact with other medical professionals.

www.facebook.com/thebmjdotcom

Join our Facebook community