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Child welfare in Mauritius, p 1195



Zimbabwe's health system, p 1239



Who's watching the watchdogs? p 1202

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» *Research, p 1208*
- 1180 Micronutrient supplementation in pregnancy in developing countries**  
May have additional benefits to supplementation with iron plus folic acid, says Girish Hiremath  
» *Research, p 1211*
- 1181 The UK quality and outcomes framework**  
Has improved quality of care and reduced health inequalities, says Helen Lester  
» *Research, p 1215*
- 1182 Statins and primary prevention of cardiovascular events**  
No change in strategy is needed despite the hype surrounding the recent JUPITER study, say Norbert Donner-Banzhoff and Andreas Sönnichsen
- 1183 Influenza vaccine in the over 65s**  
Probably has important benefits, despite recent doubts about its effectiveness, say Rachel E Jordan and Jeremy I Hawker

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New approach is needed to boost practice based commissioning
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A window to ponder  
Foundation trusts' regulator says "the best is yet to come"
- 1191 GMC was wrong to suspend obstetrician**
- 1192 France must say how genetic data is passed to patients' relatives**  
Review of x ray pictures in asbestosis litigation showed no evidence of disease in 88% of cases
- 1193 Underfunding of Australian health system leads to 1500 unnecessary deaths a year, doctors say**  
German transplant surgeon denies fraud accusations
- 1194 Nepalese woman dies after banishment from house during menstrual period**  
Chlamydia was the most often reported infection in Europe
- 1195 Training local researchers in poor countries is the best way to improve health worldwide**  
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Going out to eat is often a disaster for the waistline. Karen McColl reports on US efforts to make diners more aware of what they are eating

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Stephen Sugarman says yes; Stig Pramming says no

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Lisa Schwartz, Steven Woloshin, Ray Moynihan

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Nigel Hawkes

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Despite numerous initiatives to improve patient safety, we have little idea whether they have worked. Charles Vincent and colleagues argue that we need to develop systematic measures

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Kate Adams

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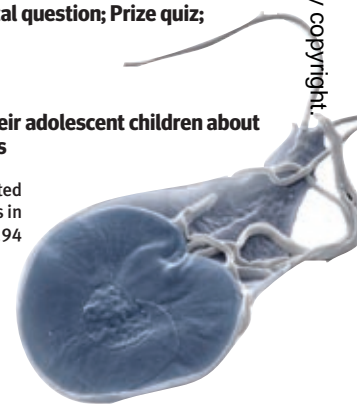
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The most reported infections in Europe, p 1194





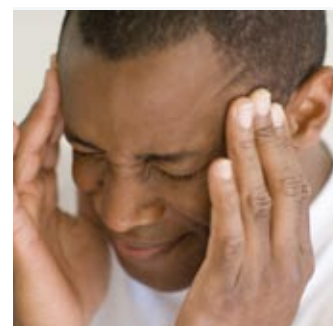
Early head injury and ADHD, p 1208



Effect of micronutrient supplementation during pregnancy in China, p 1211



Management of acute moderate and severe childhood malnutrition, p 1227



Headache in adults, pp 1231, 1234

## RESEARCH

### 1208 Early head injury and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: retrospective cohort study

Children with head injury before age 2 were twice as likely as controls to be diagnosed as having ADHD in a study of more than 62 000 children in UK primary care, but this probably indicated the early stages of behavioural disorder rather than cause and effect

Heather T Keenan, Gillian C Hall, Stephen W Marshall

» Editorial p 1179

### 1211 Impact of micronutrient supplementation during pregnancy on birth weight, duration of gestation, and perinatal mortality in rural western China: double blind cluster randomised controlled trial

Antenatal iron-folic acid increased the duration of gestation, reduced early preterm delivery, and was associated with a significant reduction in early neonatal mortality compared with folic acid alone

Lingxia Zeng, Michael J Dibley, Yue Cheng, Shaonong Dang, Suying Chang, Lingzhi Kong, Hong Yan

» Editorial p 1180

### 1215 Effect of social deprivation on blood pressure monitoring and control in England: a survey of data from the quality and outcomes framework

The prevalence of blood pressure monitoring in patients aged 45 years or more in primary care rose by 5% over the first three years of the framework's implementation and rates improved more rapidly in more deprived areas

Mark Ashworth, Jibby Medina, Myfanwy Morgan

» Editorial p 1181

### 1219 Patient safety indicators for England from hospital administrative data: case-control analysis and comparison with US data

Nine standard indicators used in the US to monitor patient safety—for example, selected infections due to medical care—translated well and performed consistently with routine hospital data from England, although it seems that some adverse events were under-reported in England

Veena S Raleigh, Jeremy Cooper, Stephen A Bremner, Sarah Scobie

## RESEARCH METHODS AND REPORTING

### 1223 Improving the reporting of pragmatic trials: an extension of the CONSORT statement

Pragmatic trials are designed to inform decisions about practice, but poor reporting can reduce their usefulness. The CONSORT and Practihc groups describe modifications to the CONSORT guidelines to help readers assess the applicability of the results

Merrick Zwarenstein, Shaun Treweek, Joel J Gagnier, Douglas G Altman, Sean Tunis, Brian Haynes, Andrew D Oxman, David Moher

## CLINICAL REVIEW

### 1227 Management of acute moderate and severe childhood malnutrition

Mark J Manary, Heidi L Sandige

## PRACTICE

### 1231 Guidelines: Diagnosis and management of headache in adults—summary of SIGN guideline

This is one of a series of *BMJ* summaries of new guidelines, which are based on the best available evidence; they highlight important recommendations for clinical practice, especially where uncertainty or controversy exists

C W Duncan, D P B Watson, A Stein, on behalf of the Guideline Development Group

### 1234 Commentary: Controversies in SIGN guidance on diagnosing and managing headache in adults

Giles Elrington

### 1235 10-Minute consultation: Memory problems in an older person

This is part of a series of occasional articles on common problems in primary care

Kallur Suresh, David Smalley, Zuzana Walker

## RESEARCH PUBLISHED ONLINE

### Inability to get up after falling, subsequent time on floor, and summoning help: prospective cohort study in people over 90

*BMJ*, doi:10.1136/bmj.a2227

Jane Fleming, Carol Brayne, and the Cambridge City over-75s Cohort (CC75C) study collaboration

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**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

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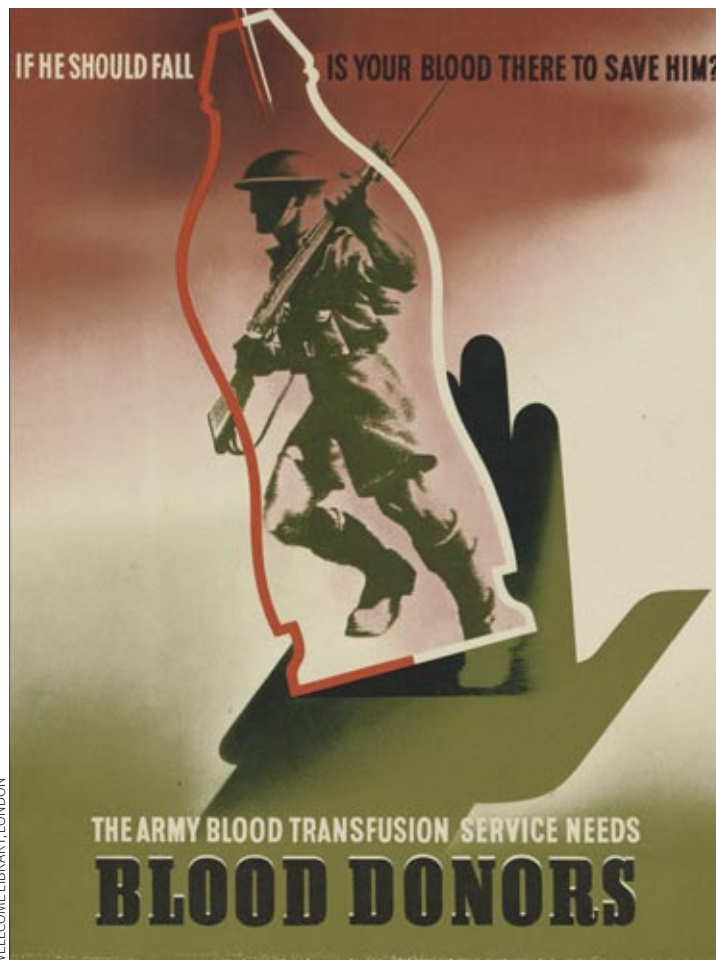
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## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A British army poster from 1943, calling for blood donors. War and Medicine, an exhibition, is at the Wellcome Collection, London, until February 2009. It focuses on conflict through the experiences of surgeons, soldiers, civilians, nurses, writers, and artists. The exhibition will be reviewed in the *BMJ* in the next few weeks.

WELLCOME LIBRARY, LONDON

## THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

**2 years** Age before which medically attended injury may indicate a subsequent diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (*Research*, p 1208)

**30 000** Possible drop in cases of diabetes in New York city over five years because of menu labelling (*Feature*, p 1198)

**5-60%** Case fatality rate of acute childhood malnutrition (*Clinical Review*, p 1227)

**1 in 1000** Risk of brain tumour or other serious cause for headache presenting in primary care (*Practice*, p 1234)

**225 000** Cases of chlamydia recorded in Europe in 2006 (*News*, p 1194)

## THE WEEK IN QUOTES

“Since ... the incorporation of pay for performance in 2004, blood pressure monitoring and control have improved substantially” (*Research*, p 1211)

“Are patients any safer?” (*Analysis*, p 1205)

“Because of Ron Davis’s work, tens of thousands of young people never started smoking” (*Obituary*, p 1237)

“No accepted standard guides reporting on ... trials that affect their usefulness for decision making” (*Research Methods & Reporting*, p 1223)

“If the number of organ donations does not rise ... we will revisit the issue of whether a change in the law is needed” (*News*, p 1189)

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## A good QOFfing whine



Editorial, p 1179  
Research, p 1208

In this week's *BMJ* we report a study attributing improvements in blood pressure monitoring and control in patients in English general practices to the quality and outcomes framework (QOF; p 1215). Intriguingly, the improvements were accompanied "by the near disappearance of the achievement gap between least and most deprived areas." For editorialist Helen Lester, "This offers the tantalising prospect that the quality and outcomes framework is a truly equitable public health intervention"—and there aren't a lot of these (p 1181).

QOF has many detractors, and their criticisms are well summarised in the new report, *Checking-Up On Doctors* ([www.civitas.org.uk](http://www.civitas.org.uk)). Perhaps the most damning is that doctors turn their attention to conditions whose treatments bring financial rewards, while ignoring those without dowries.

Our general practitioner columnist Des Spence is underwhelmed by the soft surrogate markers of disease reported in such articles (p 1240). He wants hard end points: vascular deaths and unambiguous complications. Yet his ending is cosily familiar: "Our energy has been spent bean counting the measurable while dismissing the most valuable aspect of medical care, the immeasurable."

Immeasurable, ineffable, hid from our eyes... In the current financial and political climate is it wise to defend primary care solely by invoking its warm fuzzy heart, beating away in its black box, far from the close scrutiny of all but its adepts?

Elsewhere this week's journal reminds me fleetingly of Mary Russell's wonderfully titled book: *The Blessings Of A Good Thick Skirt: Women Travellers And Their World*. We have dispatches from three intrepid women travellers: Tessa Richards in Washington DC; Kate Adams in Harare, Zimbabwe; and *BMJ* editor Fiona Godlee, in Bamako, Mali.

In what for the moment is that shining city upon a hill, Richards notes the ubiquity of Obama merchandise, much of it emblazoned with the words "change" and "hope" (<http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj>). Should she buy a fridge magnet or a T shirt? At a

meeting she learns that the best investment in global health is to train researchers in low income countries and link them to the global, medical, scientific, and public health community (p 1195). An exhibition promotes the idea that "global health depends on providing all people, in all countries, with food and clean water, health information, and access to affordable health care." It enshrines the message "that health should be seen as a human right—and protected as such."

Try to read Kate Adams's account of her visit to Zimbabwe immediately after this and not be moved—and then outraged—by the flouting of each of these principles (p 1239). Adults are being admitted to hospital with malnutrition; wards are half empty because patients can't afford the cost of transport and drugs. Hospitals have run out of soap, antibiotics, and gloves. Harare's main hospital has now closed its doors to new admissions. "The health system is in a state of collapse," despairs Adams.

Five thousand kilometres to the north west, the Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health is meeting in Mali. As Godlee describes in her blog (<http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj>) the aim is to come up with a call for action to strengthen research for health in developing countries. Dodging the traffic on Bamako's hectic streets is almost as difficult as dodging the health policy jargon in the conference hall, she says. But the expense of getting so many key people together in one of the world's poorest countries should shame them into producing something concrete.

Douglas Kamerow celebrates the short but incredibly productive life of Ron Davis—first editor of the *BMJ* Group's *Tobacco Control*, one time North American editor of the *BMJ*, and first editor of *BMJ USA*, a monthly *BMJ* digest circulated to 100 000 US doctors (p 1237). More recently, he was the 162nd president of the American Medical Association. Kamerow's obituary makes it clear why we were so lucky to have him.

**Tony Delamothe, deputy editor, *BMJ***

[tdelamothe@bmj.com](mailto:tdelamothe@bmj.com)

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Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 1242

## WHAT'S NEW ON BMJ.COM

Who's is your favourite health communicator? What is the best research paper you've ever read? Which organisation or individual is a shining example of global healthcare leadership in the developing world? These are just some of the categories in the inaugural BMJ Group Awards, in association with The Health Foundation. The deadline for nominations is Friday 19 December. See the other categories and find out more about the awards at [group.bmj.com/awards](http://group.bmj.com/awards)

## LATEST RESEARCH

A study outlines how more than 200 000 women were recruited to the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening.

A randomised trial compares incidence of tuberculosis over two years in infants vaccinated at birth with intradermal BCG or with percutaneous BCG.

And a systematic review and meta-analysis examines the effect of fibre, antispasmodics, and peppermint oil in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome.

To read these and other recent research papers, go to [bmj.com/channels/research.dtl](http://bmj.com/channels/research.dtl)



## LATEST BLOGS



Professor Sheila McLean (pictured), director of Glasgow University's Institute of Law and Ethics in Medicine, blogs about Hannah Jones, the 13 year old who has opted to "die with dignity" rather than have a heart transplant. The case, she says, "highlights that we need not treat just because we can."

Joseph Blackston disagrees with Anna Donald's take on the US election. He tells her: "The US Healthcare system needs change, but not the kind that Barack Hussein

Obama will bring. Just as the Soviets discovered they had bankrupted their country with military spending, the Obama socialist philosophy toward 'free everything for everyone' will bankrupt our economy, and the economy of our children's children."

To find out more about these and other blogs, visit <http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/>

## Last week's poll asks:

Should world leaders be obliged to make their health records public?

## You replied:

**YES** 208 votes (34%)

**NO** 410 votes (66%)

## This week's poll asks:

Should restaurant menus include nutrition labelling information?

Let us know where you stand on this issue at [www.bmj.com/#poll](http://www.bmj.com/#poll)



## MOST COMMENTED ON

Enabling women to breast feed

Regulation—the real threat to clinical research

Doctors' health matters

Patients are ready for partnership

Copy them in

## LATEST PODCASTS AND VIDEO

Professor Sir Michael Marmot, who chaired the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health, talks about the impact of the credit crunch on global health in a [bmj.com](http://bmj.com) video. And a BMJ podcast discusses food labelling and a drive to include calorie counts and other nutrition information on restaurant menus.

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