



In brief

Regulator to review care of newborns requiring additional support:

The Care Quality Commission is reviewing how infants born prematurely or who need treatment in hospital after birth are cared for by hospitals and community services. The review will start in September and cover around 20 services in England. It will look at how well staff in fetal medicine, obstetrics, and neonatal and community services work together to care for newborns with declining health problems, particularly those with hypertension and tracheostomies.

Highest ever number of drug related deaths seen in Scotland last year:

Some 613 drug related deaths occurred in Scotland last year—the highest figure ever recorded. There were 16% more deaths in 2014 than in 2013, and last year was the first time in three years that the number has risen. Heroin or morphine were implicated in more than half of cases (309), and methadone, the prescribed heroin substitute, was involved in 214 cases. Almost three quarters of the deaths were in men.

Call for action to reverse downward trend in use of stop smoking services:

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) and the National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training have said that Public Health England must better promote local NHS stop smoking services using mass media campaigns.¹ Smokers who use these services are four times more likely to quit than those who go “cold turkey.” However, the number of people using them has fallen for the past three years and by 23% last year, figures from the Health and Social Care Information Centre show.

Lansley in line for peerage: Andrew Lansley, former health secretary in the coalition government (2010-12) and the architect of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, has been nominated for a peerage in the House of Lords. Lansley was the MP for South Cambridgeshire from 1997 to 2015 and Leader of the House of Commons from 2012 to 2014.

Global life expectancy climbs but with illness and disability:

Global life expectancy has risen by more than six years, but people are living longer with illness and disability, primarily caused by ischaemic heart disease, lower respiratory infections, stroke, low back and neck pain, and accidents. The analysis of all major diseases and injuries in 188 countries from 1990 to 2013, published in the *Lancet*, showed that the overall rise in life expectancy masks stark differences among countries. In 2013 Lesotho had the lowest healthy life expectancy, at 42 years, while Japan had the highest, at 73.4 years.²

National genomes project gets under way: More than 12 000 patients with rare diseases and cancers under the care of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust are being invited to provide health data and blood and tissue samples for whole genome sequencing, for the national 100 000 Genomes Project, which aims to improve diagnosis and treatment. Samples will also be

taken for further research, and extensive clinical outcome data will be collected.

Researchers fail to reproduce results from psychological studies:

A review conducted by more than 270 researchers around the world attempted to replicate 100 findings published in three leading psychology journals. Although the original experiments were able to be reproduced in almost all cases fewer than half generated the original results, show the findings published in the journal *Science*.³ “A large portion of replications produced weaker evidence for the original findings,” the researchers said. “Replication success was better predicted by the strength of original evidence than by characteristics of the original and replication teams.”

Tiny proportion of doctors opt out of weekend working:

An investigation by BMJ Careers has found that just 1% of consultants have opted out of weekend working. Trusts’ responses to a freedom of information request also showed that just two consultants had used a clause in their contract to avoid working out of hours. (See longer story <http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/?doi=10.1136/bmj.h4676>.)

BMA denounces pay cap:

Mark Porter, BMA council chair, has condemned an announcement by the Treasury that said the 1% capped rise for public sector pay may not be awarded to all staff. “For many doctors this may mean another cut in pay, which is lower in real terms than it was a decade ago,” he said, branding the plan a “disgraceful act of bad faith.”

Sierra Leone is not free from Ebola:

A week after Sierra Leone discharged its last Ebola case from hospital, a new case has been confirmed: a 67 year old woman who was buried on 29 August tested positive for the virus. The woman had been treated at her home in the northwestern Kambia district.

MenB added to childhood vaccinations in England:

From 1 September the MenB vaccination will be added to the NHS Childhood Immunisation Programme in England to help protect children against meningococcal group B disease. Babies will be offered the vaccine with the other routine vaccinations at 2, 4, and 12-13 months of age.

US regulator issues warnings to three tobacco companies:

The Food and Drug Administration has issued warning letters to three tobacco manufacturers for breaching legislation on product description. ITG Brands, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company, and Sherman’s 1400 Broadway NYC have all described their cigarettes as “additive-free” and/or “natural” on product labels, which could lead consumers to believe that they pose fewer health risks than other cigarettes.

1 Kmiotowicz Z. New grassroots movement aims to champion general practice. *BMJ* 2015;351:h4070.

2 Murray CJ, Barber RM, Foreman KJ, et al; GBD 2013 DALYs and HALE Collaborators. Global, regional, and national disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for 306 diseases and injuries and healthy life expectancy (HALE) for 188 countries, 1990-2013: quantifying the

epidemiological transition. *Lancet* 2015. [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)61340-X/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)61340-X/abstract).

- 3 Open Science Collaboration. Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science. *Science* 2015;349:pii:aac4716; doi:10.1126/science.aac4716.

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