Innovation

How can point-of-care HbA1c testing be integrated into UK primary care consultations? - A feasibility study.
Hirst, J A; Stevens, R J; Smith, I et al, Diabetes research and clinical practice; Aug 2017; 130:113-120
HbA1c measurement with POC devices can be effectively implemented in primary care. This work has identified when these technologies might work best, as well as potential challenges.
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Helpful strategies for GPs seeing patients with medically unexplained physical symptoms: a focus group study.
Aamland, Aase; Fosse, Anette; Ree, Eline et al, The British journal of general practice : the journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners; Aug 2017; 67(661):e572
Important strategies were: thorough investigation of the patient's symptoms and story; sharing of interpretations; and negotiation of different explanations. Sharing helpful strategies with colleagues in a field in which frustration and dissatisfaction are not uncommon can encourage GPs to develop sustainable responsibility and innovative solutions.
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McLeod, K; Simpson, A, Journal of psychiatric and mental health nursing; Aug 2017; 24(6):387-395
This paper evaluates a mental health nurse-led Primary Care Liaison Service (PCLS), developed in 2011 in inner London. The findings suggest that this type of service can improve the quality of care for people presenting with mental health problems within primary care, specifically due to improved integration, clinical effectiveness, patient-centred care, access and efficiency.

Repeat prescribing of medications: A system-centred risk management model for primary care organisations.
Price, Julie; et al, Journal of evaluation in clinical practice; Aug 2017; 23(4):779-796
The risk management model tested uncovered important safety concerns and facilitated the development and communication of related improvement recommendations. System-wide information on hazardous repeat prescribing and how this could be mitigated is very limited.
Nurse-Led Patient-Centered Advance Care Planning in Primary Care: A Pilot Study.

Holland, Diane E; et al, Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing; Aug 2017; 19(4):368-375

The use of nurses to facilitate advance care planning with patients may be an opportunity to improve healthcare and patient outcomes and support full-scope nursing practice in primary care settings.

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NHS England Health and Care Innovation Expo 2017, 11 to 12 September 2017, Manchester, UK

27th July 2017 NHS England

Inspiring patient-centered innovation and transformation across England’s health and social care services

Telephone consultations for general practice: a systematic review.

Downes, Martin J et al. Systematic reviews; Jul 2017; vol. 6 (no. 1); p. 128

CONCLUSION: There is a lack of high level evidence for telephone consultations in a GP setting; however, current evidence suggests that telephone consultations as an alternative to face-to-face general practice consultations offers an appropriate option in certain settings.

Leadership

Quality improvement in mental health

July 2017 Ross, Shilpa; Naylor, Chris King’s Fund

Reports on two UK, and one Singaporean, Mental Health Trust and examines how mental health organisations can implement quality improvement and outlines the benefits this can bring, and finds leaders play a key role in creating the right conditions for quality improvement.

STP progress dashboard – baseline view

21st July 2017 Swindells, Matthew NHS England

Outlines baseline data for each STP area in England relating to progress so far on STP plans against nine domains. The nine domains focus on hospital performance, patient-focused change and transformation.

Skill Mix & Workforce Planning

Balancing health care education and patient care in the UK workplace: a realist synthesis.

Sholl, Sarah et al. Medical Education; Aug 2017; vol. 51 (no. 8); p. 787-801

This study offers recommendations for the development of educational policy and practice at the individual, interpersonal and organisational levels and calls for more research to evaluate the increasing range of complex interventions to help balance health care professional education and patient care delivery.

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An overview of the outcomes and impact of specialist and advanced nursing and midwifery practice, on quality of care, cost and access to services: A narrative review.

Casey, Mary et al.  
*Nurse Education Today*; Sep 2017; vol. 56; p. 35-40

Nursing and midwifery practitioners continue to be under-utilised despite the evidence that greater reliance on advanced nurse practitioners could improve accessibility of primary care services while also saving on cost. There are difficulties associated with accurate measurement of the impact of these roles on patient outcomes.

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**Stepping forward to 2020/21: The mental health workforce plan for England: A report from Health Education England to support the delivery of the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health in England.**

July 2017  
*NHS England*

Sets out measures to expand the mental health workforce in England and fulfil ambitions to improve mental health services by 2020/21.

**Improving Care Teams' Functioning: Recommendations from Team Science**

Fiscella, Kevin et al.  
*Joint Commission Journal on Quality & Patient Safety*; Jul 2017; vol. 43 (no. 7); p. 361-368

Nursing and midwifery practitioners continue to be under-utilised despite the evidence that greater reliance on advanced nurse practitioners could improve accessibility of primary care services while also saving on cost. There are difficulties associated with accurate measurement of the impact of these roles on patient outcomes.

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**What will make a difference? Assessing the impact of policy and non-policy scenarios on estimations of the future GP workforce.**

Laurence, Caroline; Karnon, Jonathan  
*Human resources for health*; Jun 2017; v.15 (no. 1); p. 43

Examines probable trends in South Australia's GP workforce to 2037, considering influences, such as increased demand for GP services, which may require policy intervention to address associated workforce shortfalls, and offers a model (for regular update) to inform need for policy intervention.

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**Re-employment of staff in receipt of NHS Pension Scheme benefits: Guidance for employers and staff**

July 2017  
*Department of Health*

Guidance on how to consider applications from staff wishing to retire and return to work for the NHS. Aims to help employers implement policies and procedures that allow decisions to re-employ staff to be justified in terms of service need and value for money.

**Telehealth**

**A Systematic Review of Wearable Patient Monitoring Systems - Current Challenges and Opportunities for Clinical Adoption.**

Baig MM.  
*Journal Of Medical Systems* 2017;41(7):115.

The aim of this review is to investigate barriers and challenges of wearable patient monitoring (WPM) solutions adopted by clinicians in acute, as well as in community, care settings.

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Using telehealth in the management of hypertension.
Harrison, Charlotte Elizabeth; Wild, Karen, Nursing standard; Jul 2017;31(48):44-49
This article presents the findings of a literature review that explored the issues associated with implementing telehealth for hypertension management in the primary care setting.
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Evaluation of the National Health Service (NHS) Direct Pilot Telehealth Program: Cost-Effectiveness Analysis.
Clarke, Malcolm et al, Telemedicine journal and e-health Jul 2017
There was a wide discrepancy in the results from the two PCTs. This places doubt on outcomes and may indicate also why the literature on cost-effectiveness remains inconclusive.
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A RCT of telehealth for COPD patient's quality of life: the whole system demonstrator evaluation
TH showed minimal benefit to QoL in COPD patients who were not preselected to be at increased risk of acute exacerbations. Benefits more likely in disease specific measures at longer term follow-up.
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Self-Directed Telehealth Parent-Mediated Intervention for Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder: Examination of the Potential Reach and Utilization in Community Settings
Brooke Ingersoll et al Med Internet Res 2017 (Jul 12);19(7):e248
This trial of the ImPACT Online telehealth program demonstrated a high rate of parent program engagement, low attrition, and associated gains in parent learning and child social communication.

The changing face of medicine and the role of the doctor in the future
26th June 2017 BMA
This project looks at how social and technological changes might affect doctors' sense of vocation, professional values and the doctor-patient relationship in the future, drawing on international perspectives.

Increasing the uptake of electronic prescribing in primary care.
Imambaccus N. BMJ Quality Improvement Reports 2017;6(1)
A GP practice introduced a new electronic prescribing form but despite posters and leaflets uptake didn't improve until extra interventions including computer notes to remind staff and attachment of the new forms to paper prescriptions. The most effective way of improving uptake relies on having motivated, well informed staff alongside adequate information placement for patients to access.
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