

All the latest Heart Improvement
news and views . . . **FIRST**



eBULLETIN
heartimprovement

NHS Improvement

www.improvement.nhs.uk/heart

Delivering tomorrow's improvement
agenda for the NHS



This eBulletin is sent for information to cardiac network managers, network service improvement leads, network clinical leads and the NHS Improvement- Heart national team. It is provided on an opt-in basis, and to subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact info@improvement.nhs.uk

Issue 157: 17 May 2011

In this issue:

- [Attention Networks!](#) Cardiovascular Conference and Farewell to Prof. Roger Boyle
- [NHS Improvement Shortlisted for a NICE Shared Learning Award](#)
- [Eyes on Evidence](#) features case study on SNP testing in Heart Failure
- [CR Peer Support Meeting](#) 18 May
- [Stroke Association](#) Ask First campaign
- [Anticoagulation for Atrial Fibrillation:](#) new commissioning guide
- [News from the DH](#) Participants wanted for NHS Future Forum
- [News from the Networks](#)
- [External training and events](#)
- [In the news](#)
- [Other news](#)

NHS Improvement news & events

Attention Networks! - A cardiovascular conference will take place in London on 4th July to highlight the achievements in cardiovascular care over the past 11 years and showcase the work of NHS Improvement and cardiovascular networks with an emphasis on clinical leadership. The day will be chaired by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh with presentations from inspirational clinicians in the heart and stroke arena.

The day will also be an opportunity to say a fond farewell to Professor Roger Boyle. If you are unable to attend but would like to send him a postcard sized message or image, please do so at Heart@Improvement.nhs.uk

Attendance is by invitation from your local cardiac and stroke network –details will be sent directly.

Heart Failure

NHS Improvement Shortlisted for a NICE Shared Learning Award

NHS Improvement was one of only 20 organisations of almost 100 submitted from across the country to be shortlisted to receive a NICE Shared Learning Award for increasing the uptake of serum natriuretic peptide (NP) testing for heart failure.

The NICE Shared Learning Awards recognise and reward examples of how NICE guidance has been put into practice in the NHS, local authorities, voluntary and other organisations.

An A1 poster detailing the project was displayed in the Shared Learning Zone in the NICE Conference on 10 and 11 May.

You can view the full set of conference posters in the [Shared Learning Awards 2011 poster booklet](#) and access the original [submissions](#) on the Shared Learning Database.

NHS Evidence Has it's Eye on NHS Improvement

This month's issue of 'Eyes on Evidence' (Issue 25, May 2011), the eBulletin published by NHS Evidence, features an informative case study on Serum Natriuretic Peptide testing in Heart Failure.

The case study, which has been included in the QIPP collection, details an initiative led by NHS Improvement that could help the NHS save an average of £10 million annually, through a reduction in diagnostics and cardiology out-patient appointments.

(At the time of publishing, there was a problem accessing 'Eyes on Evidence' via the NHS Evidence website. Please check here to access the bulletin later <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>)

Cardiac Rehabilitation

Peer Support Meeting 18 May 2011, London

The next Peer Support meeting for sites participating in the national cardiac rehabilitation project is due to take place on Wednesday 18th May 2011 at the Ambassadors Hotel, Bloomsbury, London. Presentations from the day will be made available on the 'new look' website at www.improvement.nhs.uk/cardiac rehabilitation after the event.

Atrial Fibrillation in Primary Care

New NHS Improvement web pages

New web pages on the Atrial Fibrillation programme of work are now available at www.improvement.nhs.uk/heart/AF

The web pages include information on anticoagulation, detection and diagnosis, events and projects, along with links to the GRASP-AF tool.

Stroke Association Ask First campaign

The Stroke Association is running its *Ask First* campaign this year which aims to achieve better

awareness of AF amongst the public and better knowledge of diagnosis and management measures which can be used by primary healthcare professionals.

NHS Improvement- Heart have been working alongside The Stroke Association to ensure that GP surgeries in the South East and South Central regions are aware that there may be an increased amount of patients presenting with concerns over AF.

Read more about the campaign [here](#) or visit www.stroke.org.uk/askfirst

Anticoagulation for Atrial Fibrillation: A simple overview to support the commissioning of quality services

NHS Improvement has developed a simple guide to support the commissioning of quality anticoagulation services. It sets out to help commissioners develop quality anticoagulation services by emphasising evidence based practice and measurable outcomes. A copy of the guide is available [here](#)

Future diary dates

Following on from the positive feedback of the GRASP event in March, a further workshop is planned for Thursday Friday 16 September in Leeds. The agenda and further details will be publicised in due course. **Please note that the workshop planned for 8 September in Birmingham is no longer running.**

NHS Improvement has been invited to sponsor a half day session at the Heart Rhythm Congress annual conference 2 – 5 October 2011. Full session details will be announced when finalised.

News from the Department of Health

'Our health and social care system still needs to change.' Key facts...

- The population is ageing, and the cost of advances in treatments and medicines is putting around £600 million of extra funding pressure on the NHS budget every year;
- If the NHS is to continue to maintain and improve its performance, it needs to change;
- If it performed as well as the best-performing healthcare systems, it could save 5,000 extra lives a year from cancer, and 2,000 extra lives from respiratory disease.

The Department of Health (DH) has set out how it thinks the health and social care system needs to be modernised, but recognises that there are some questions and concerns about what the Department's doing, and about the mechanics of putting these principles into practice;

So now that the DH have a natural break in the Bill, it is taking this time to pause, listen, reflect on, and improve the NHS modernisation plans;

The Department has created the NHS Future Forum - a group of 40 patient representatives, doctors, nurses and other health professionals - who will listen and then share their conclusions with Government.

The NHS Future Forum is chaired by Professor Steve Field, and has four theme leaders:

- Sir Stephen Bubb, chief executive of ACEVO is leading the choice and competition

theme;

- Geoff Alltimes, chief executive of Hammersmith and Fulham Council is leading the public accountability and patient involvement theme;
- Julie Moore, chief executive of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust is leading the education and training theme;
- Kathy McClean, NHS medical director at East Midlands Strategic Health Authority is leading the clinical advice and leadership theme.

The forum will spend eight weeks listening and discussing the proposed changes with a wide range of NHS stakeholders, professionals, patients and the public. Its conclusions will be fed back to the PM, the DPM and the Secretary of State and made public.

Organisers would like the listening exercise to be as representative as possible, and are therefore interested in hearing from all groups and organisations – patients, the public, health and social care professionals, managers, local government and national stakeholders;

A formal submission is not necessary, but if you would like to respond, complete the online response form at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare preferably by the middle of May](http://www.dh.gov.uk/healthandcare_preferably_by_the_middle_of_May).

Four themes have been identified with some questions within those themes, but your response does not have to be limited to these areas.

News from the Networks

Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset Cardiac and Stroke Network, Newsletter

To download a copy of the latest newsletter click [here](#)

Kent Cardiovascular Network newsletter

To download a copy of the network's newsletter click [here](#)

To include any newsworthy items of your own, contact Rebecca Stoneham rebecca.stoneham@kentmedway.nhs.uk

Would you like to share your newsletter with our readers? Send us a pdf or the link to you newsletter and we will include it in this bulletin, which is sent out to almost 600 recipients nationwide.

External training and events

Cardiomyopathy 2011 - Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

20 May, London

This national conference focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. In common with previous years, the meeting is being supported by a faculty of national and international cardiology specialists.

As a continued demonstration of committing to medical education, the conference is offered free to all trainee medical grades and at the reduced rate of £95 for consultant staff. Programme and

registration details can be downloaded [here](#)

Anticoagulation in Practice 2011

Thursday 26 to Friday 27 May 11, University of Birmingham

Aimed at General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Biomedical Scientists, Pharmacists and Patients, this two day course in Anticoagulation in Practice is designed to present the latest developments in haemostasis and thrombosis. Please click [here](#) for further information, or contact [Catherine Fitzmaurice](#)

Coventry and Warwickshire Cardiovascular Network's 3rd annual Heart Failure Conference

Tuesday 7 June 2011

Improving Quality of Life in Heart Failure will be held at Scarman House, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill, Coventry, CV4 7AL. Some of the topics to be covered will include:

- Use of BNP in practice
- HF from a carer's perspective
- Advance Medical Treatments
- Role of Devices in HF care
- Hypertension, Salt Intake & CHF
- Ultra filtration – the benefits
- Palliative and End of Life care

This free all day event will be of interest to GPs, Practice Nurses, Heart Failure Specialist nurses, Community Nurses and anyone else with an interest in improving care for Heart Failure patients. Please see the attached flyer for more information or contact Juelene White, Service Development Manager juelene.white@warwickshire.nhs.uk or Vivienne Yearley, Network Administrator vivienne.yearley@warwickshire.nhs.uk.

Please complete the attached [registration form](#) to reserve your place. **Places are limited and must be booked by Friday 20 May.**

Heart Failure Degree eLearning

The course is designed for health care professionals who encounter the challenges of managing people diagnosed with chronic heart failure, particularly in the community setting. This exciting distance learning course provides a combination of self-directed study, on-line learning, practical case scenarios and interactive study days. The course is ideal for qualified staff who manage people with long term conditions, and need advanced practical skills and expertise in the assessment, investigation and treatment of people with chronic heart failure. The students will develop in-depth knowledge on the epidemiology, pathophysiology, investigation, diagnosis, pharmacological and non-pharmacological management including specialist referral and palliative care.

The duration of the course is 6 months distance learning supported by two study days. For more information call 01926 838969 or click [here](#)

Masters Degree, Postgraduate Certificate and related courses in Preventive Cardiology

Imperial College, London

This programme is open to hospital and primary care physicians, nurses, dieticians,

physiotherapists, physical activity specialists, psychologists, occupational therapists, pharmacists and any other health professionals with an interest in cardiovascular disease prevention.

The Masters Programme is full time (one year) or part time (two years). The PGCert is 9-months part-time. Read more in Professor David Wood's letter [here](#) and the Preventative Cardiology course brochure [here](#)

3rd National CVD Prevention meeting, Putting Prevention First – The Professional Challenges

June 30th – July 1st 2011, Imperial College London

The third national CVD prevention meeting at Imperial College will discuss the professional challenges we face in putting prevention first.

Professor Roger Boyle will give a keynote lecture on the future for cardiovascular prevention, and Professor John Deanfield, in his capacity as Chairman of the Joint British Societies Guidelines on Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Clinical Practice, will provide an update on JBS3.

Professor David Wood invites any colleagues with an interest in cardiovascular prevention to attend, including all health professionals in NHS Primary Care Trusts and new General Practice Consortia with an interest in cardiovascular disease prevention, including those working in Cardiac Rehabilitation programmes, Health Check services, and Cardiac and Stroke Networks, together with Directors of Public Health and Commissioners.

Please register in advance for the meeting by visiting www.imperial.ac.uk/cpd/courses/subject/medical/puttingpreventionfirst

Click [here](#) to download his invitation letter. and the programme is available to download [here](#)

Coronary Heart Disease

This Level 5 diploma module is designed for all qualified & unqualified health professionals who deal with patients suspected of or having Coronary Heart Disease. This exciting distance learning course is ideal for those who want to gain greater understanding about the assessment, investigation & treatment of patients with suspected or existing diagnosis of CHD

For more details please contact the Education Coordinators on 01926 838969 or send an [email](#). Further details can be found on the [Education for Health website](#).

Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation (SPAF) Academy Inaugural Meeting Wednesday 18 May, 2011

The PCCS has an association with the Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation (SPAF) Academy, whose primary objective is to help reduce the incidence and severity of AF-related stroke in the UK. The SPAF Academy is developed and funded by Boehringer Ingelheim.

This year, as part of the SPAF Academy's educational programme, it is holding an inaugural one-day National Meeting at The Royal Institution in London on Wednesday, 18th May 2011. This is going to be a valuable opportunity to discuss with some of the UK's leading experts the latest approaches and clinical data on SPAF management and to gain an insight into the

challenges and solutions that lie ahead in this area.

Registration is free. For more information visit www.spafacademy.org.uk.

Anticoagulation in Practice 2011

Thursday 26 to Friday 27 May 11, University of Birmingham

Aimed at General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Biomedical Scientists, Pharmacists and Patients, this two day course in Anticoagulation in Practice is designed to present the latest developments in haemostasis and thrombosis. Please click [here](#) for further information, or contact [Catherine Fitzmaurice](#).

Heart UK 25th Annual Conference

Wednesday 6 - Friday 8 July 2011

'Partners in Prevention - Lipids in Cardiovascular Disease and Beyond'

Join nurses, doctors, scientists, patients and dietitians from across the UK and beyond for interactive learning and discussions on lipids.

- Bursary applications - 1 April
- Early bird registration - Monday 25 April

For more information and to download details click [here](#) or visit www.heartuk.org.uk or contact the Conference Secretariat for a registration form.

Tel: 01543 503 322 Email: wheldonevents@btconnect.com

User, Representative and Involvement Training Programme

Friday 9 September 2011

For patients, carers and volunteers

Education and Training Centre, Manor Hospital, Walsall

For details click [here](#)

BACPR Annual Conference 2011: Partnership working to improve care

Thursday 6 & Friday 7 October, 2011, Brighton, Thistle Hotel

Sign up for the next BACPR Annual Conference to be held in October in Brighton this year.

Download the provisional programme [here](#) which includes presentation of the BHF and BACPR Celebrating Cardiac Rehabilitation Award

For conference registration please email bacpr@bcs.com

BACPR Education

Physical Activity and Exercise in the Management of Cardiovascular Disease Part 1: Principles and Practicalities

17/18 June 2011, Central London

Physical Activity and Exercise in the Management of Cardiovascular Disease Part 1: Principles and Practicalities

25/26 June 2011, Exeter

Physical Activity and Exercise in the Management of Cardiovascular Disease Part 2: Advanced Applications

25/26 June 2011, Manchester

Practical Skills in Adapting Group Exercise for People with Complex Needs in Cardiac Rehabilitation

1 July 2011 - Central London

Physical Activity and Exercise in Heart Failure : Assessment , Prescription and Delivery

Saturday 29 October 2011 - Wythenshawe Hospital – Manchester

Friday 18 November 2011 - St Richards Hospital - Chichester

The course is aimed at Health professionals and BACR exercise instructors advising on or delivering physical activity and exercise in primary and secondary care.

Contact: Vivienne Stockley vivienne@bacrededucation.co.uk 01252 720640

For details and course dates please visit <http://www.bacrededucation.co.uk/courses/heart-failure-and-exercise/>

The BACPR has an extensive educational programme which also includes:

- BACPR Exercise Instructor Training Qualification
- How to Ensure your Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme Meets Standards
- Physical Activity and Exercise Advice in Heart Failure
- Assessing Functional Capacity in Clinical Populations
- Monitoring Exercise Intensity – HR, RPE and METs
- Psychological Management and Health Behaviour Change in Cardiovascular Disease
- Reducing the Risk of Cardiovascular Disease and Managing Weight: A Dietary and Behavioural Approach

Please contact info@bacrededucation.co.uk or visit www.bacrededucation.co.uk for more details and application forms on all the above courses or if you would like to host one of the courses in your area in return for a small fee and a free place.

Balanced Approach tai chi training programme for cardiac rehabilitation

The next [Tai Chi for cardiac rehabilitation course](#) starts in October. There is an expanding field of research supporting tai chi for rehab at phase III & IV and even mild to moderate heart failure (NYHA class II–III).

Tai Chi helps cardiac failure patients

Two hours of tai chi per week led to improvements in mood, daily exercise, and quality of life among people with chronic heart failure, according to a new study in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* (April 25). Tai chi is a meditative exercise that has proved helpful in patients with various health conditions, ranging from heart disease to arthritis, cognitive decline, depression, osteoporosis, and menopause, among others.

To view the dates and booking details for 2011 tai chi training and workshops offered by Balanced Approach in South Birmingham click [here](#)

Visit the Balanced Approach [website](#) for more information on tai chi for cardiac rehab.

Want to publicise your event?

If so, please email [Bulletin](#) with all the details.

In the news

'Heart attack jab' still needs more work

Scientists have developed a 'new heart attack jab' that is 'even more effective than statins', The Daily Telegraph has reported. The newspaper says that a simple jab given to patients up to 12 hours...

<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2011/04April/pages/study-probes-ways-of-reducing-heart-attack-damage.aspx>

Heart attacks 'worse in the morning' - Health News - NHS Choices

'Heart attacks are far more dangerous in the mornings than at any other time of the day,' reported the Daily Mail. It said that patients who had an attack between 6am and midday suffered a fifth more damage...

BBC on statins for over 55s "All those over 55 should be offered drugs to lower cholesterol and blood pressure, according to a new study....."

<http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/call-for-all-to-take-statins-after-55>

Other news

The use of Dabigatran Etexilate to reduce Stroke Risk in those with AF

On 14 April 2011 the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), a committee of the European Medicines Agency, adopted a positive opinion recommending a variation to the terms of the marketing authorisation for the medicinal product Pradaxa (Dabigatran).

They adopted a new indication for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adult patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation with one or more of the following risk factors:

- Previous stroke, transient ischemic attack, or systemic embolism (SEE)
- Left ventricular ejection fraction < 40 %
- Symptomatic heart failure, ≥ New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class 2
- Age ≥ 75 years
- Age ≥ 65 years associated with one of the following: diabetes mellitus, coronary artery disease, or hypertension

The NICE Appraisals Committee will meet in July to discuss this, and the resultant NICE technology appraisal is expected in December 2011. Read more [here](#)

Circadian variations of infarct size in acute myocardial infarction -- Suárez-Barrientos et al.

The circadian clock influences a number of cardiovascular (patho) physiological processes including the incidence of acute myocardial infarction. A circadian variation in infarct size has recently been shown in rodents, but there is no clinical evidence of this finding. Click [here](#) to read the report published 27 April 2011.

NHS Evidence

To keep up to date with news about the service [sign up to Eyes on Evidence](#), the monthly NHS Evidence bulletin.

Visit the Cardiovascular specialist collection at www.library.nhs.uk/cardiovascular

NICE

Click [here](#) to view the latest press releases from NICE

Atrial Fibrillation Association (AFA) News

Download the latest newsletter [here](#)

The British Association of Cardiac Prevention & Rehabilitation (BACPR)

Download the latest (March 2011) BACPR newsletter [here](#)

British Heart Foundation

Click [here](#) to view the latest online bulletin.

Arrhythmia Alliance

Click [here](#) to view the latest A-A e.news bulletin.

NHS Connecting for Health and NHS Information Centre – Secondary Uses Service update <http://www.knowledge.ic.nhs.uk/ebulletins/sus>

Heart Forum News Briefing

A weekly roundup of news and other items related to cardiovascular disease.
<http://www.heartforum.org.uk/>

Twitter!

Follow NHS Improvement on Twitter! For all the latest updates across all of our work programmes, and news on publications and events – Join us [here](#) now!

This bulletin is sent to cardiac network managers, lead clinicians and cardiac service improvement managers in England on an opt-in basis. If you received this email in error or no longer want to receive the bulletin, please email Sherilyn.Pereira@improvement.nhs.uk with the words 'unsubscribe bulletin' in the subject line.

Disclaimer: The content of this bulletin does not necessarily reflect the views of the NHS Heart Improvement Programme, but is provided as a rapid information service for cardiac network staff. All links from this bulletin are provided for information only. A link does not imply endorsement of that site. We do not accept responsibility for the sites linked to, or the information displayed there.

Who are we?

Launched in April 2005, the NHS Heart Improvement Programme is a national approach to support the delivery of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Coronary Heart Disease, through the development of cardiac networks. Our role is to support cardiac network development, ensure spread of service improvement within cardiac networks and facilitate the introduction of new service improvement tools and recognised clinical innovations. The programme builds on the successful work of its predecessor, the Coronary Heart Disease Collaborative, which was established to make improvements in the way CHD services are delivered to patients. www.improvement.nhs.uk/heart

The NHS Heart Improvement Programme is part of NHS Improvement. NHS Improvement is a national improvement programme working with clinical networks and NHS organisations to transform, deliver and sustain improvements across the entire pathway of care in cancer, cardiac, diagnostics, lung and stroke services. www.improvement.nhs.uk