

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

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NHS Improvement



*This eBulletin is produced by the Stroke Improvement Programme and is available for information to anyone working in health care, social care or the voluntary sector with an interest in stroke. It is provided on an opt-in basis, and to subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact [Anne Coleman](#)*

## Issue 75: 11 April 2011

### Easter break

#### Next Stroke Improvement bulletin out on Monday 09 May 2011

The Stroke Improvement bulletin will be taking a break for Easter and will return on Monday 09 May 2011.

### Unbundling the stroke tariff

#### New web resource on the Stroke Improvement website

A new resource is currently being developed to support unbundling the stroke tariff, as outlined in the Payment by Results Guidance 2011/12. Please visit the [Stroke Improvement website](#) to have a look. A further update to the resource will be live on Monday 18 April.

This resource aims to provide access to learning and resources developed by local health communities. We are keen to continue to add to this resource. If you have any information you would like to share, please contact [Sue Hall](#).

### Atrial Fibrillation

#### New NHS Improvement web pages

New web pages on the Atrial Fibrillation programme of work are now available on the [NHS Improvement website](#).

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



### Accelerating Stroke Improvement

#### Full operational definitions 2011-12

Published on 01 April 2011, these [enhanced operational definitions](#) for the

Accelerating Stroke Improvement (ASI) measures have been developed to reflect the questions and comments from the first year of ASI.

Please visit our [ASI webpage](#) for further information.

**What is Accelerating Stroke Improvement?**

At the Stroke Public Accounts Committee on 24 February 2010, the Department of Health committed the NHS to an accelerated programme of improvement in stroke services for 2010/11. This accelerated improvement work formed the basis of the Stroke Improvement Programme's work for 2010/11 and will continue for 2011/12. The full proceedings of the Committee can be seen [here](#).

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**Successful Implementation of Early Supported Discharge Services Collaborative Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC), Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire: Stroke Rehabilitation Theme**

The ESD research team (members of the CLAHRC Stroke Rehabilitation Theme) have developed a consensus document on ESD by working with ESD trialists that contributed to a 2005 Cochrane systematic review. This document makes research findings accessible to commissioners and service providers and promotes evidence based practice. Details of this work have recently been published online in the [Journal of Stroke, March 2011](#) and a review of ESD has been featured in [Geriatric Medicine](#).

The ESD consensus document has informed an ESD service specification for the East Midlands and has been disseminated nationally through the Stroke Improvement Programme. The CLAHRC ESD research team are currently mapping how ESD services have been set up across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire and evaluating their effectiveness in practice. The aim is to facilitate the successful implementation of evidence based ESD services.

To find out more about this work, please contact [Dr Rebecca Fisher](#) or [Professor Marion Walker](#), University of Nottingham.

**Transparency in outcomes: a framework for quality in adult social care**

**The 2011/12 Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework**

The Department of Health has published the [first national Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework](#), which will apply to the year 2011/12. It describes a set of outcomes for people who use social care services, their carers and families, the statements outline what people should expect from high quality services and allow them to hold local organisations to account.

**NICE Quality Standard on depression in adults  
Published March 2011**

This latest [NICE Quality Standard](#) published in March 2011 provides quality statements for the assessment and clinical management of persistent sub-threshold depressive symptoms, or mild, moderate or severe depression in

adults (including people with a chronic physical health problem). The quality standard for depression in adults requires that services should be commissioned from and coordinated across all relevant agencies encompassing the whole depression care pathway. It supports an integrated approach to provision of services which fits well with the desired model of care for stroke and is fundamental to the delivery of high quality care to people with stroke and depression.

## **News from the networks**

### **Newsletters**

Please click on the following links to view the latest news and updates from the cardiac and stroke networks:

- [Stroke-news, London Cardiac and Stroke Networks, April 2011](#)
- [Greater Manchester and Cheshire Cardiac and Stroke Network ebulletin, April 2011](#)
- [AGWS Cardiac and Stroke Network newsletter, March 2011](#)

## **Stroke vacancies**

### **Consultant Stroke Physicians, Northampton**

Northampton General Hospital is the Primary Stroke Centre for Northamptonshire and is keen to appoint two enthusiastic stroke physicians to facilitate the ongoing delivery of high quality hyperacute and rehabilitation stroke care to patients across the county.

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact the team to arrange a visit. For full details, please visit the [NHS Jobs website](#).

Closing date: 20 April 2011

Interview date: 02 June 2011

## **External Training and Events**

### **Arrhythmia Alliance and Atrial Fibrillation Association regional meetings for medical professionals**

**Thursday 28 April – Stoke, Thursday 12 May – Leicester, Thursday 19 May – Newcastle, Friday 20 May – Oxford**

Each local one day course will provide a forum for primary and secondary healthcare professionals interested in improving local delivery of stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation, as well as an opportunity to assess local services and how these may be enhanced. The courses include AF management, new oral treatments and emerging oral anticoagulants and are CPD accredited by the Royal College of Physicians. To find out more, please visit the [AFA website](#).

### **Running a conversation partner scheme**

**Wednesday 11 to Thursday 12 May 2011, London**

Learn how to run a cost-effective scheme which tackles the isolation of

communication disability using volunteers. Includes a comprehensive toolkit and gives you the skills to train your team. For further information please visit the [Connect website](#).

### **Annual South West Stroke Event 'Joining Forces - Maintaining the Pace of Change'**

**Wednesday 11 May 2011, Exeter**

Registration is now open for the Annual South West Stroke Event 'Joining Forces - Maintaining the Pace of Change'. To view the programme for the day, please visit the [Joining Forces website](#). Registration can be made through the website and is open until 29 April 2011.

### **Active Communication**

**Wednesday 15 June 2011, Manchester**

This one day intensive training course run by The Stroke Association will demonstrate the benefits of active communication with people affected by stroke. Quality assured by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and endorsed by UKSFT. To find out more please click [here](#), email Lisa Barrett at [stroketraining@stroke.org.uk](mailto:stroketraining@stroke.org.uk) or call 0121 441 6420.

### **UK Stroke Assembly**

**Monday 27 to Tuesday 28 June 2011, Hilton Metropole, Birmingham**

The UK Stroke Assembly, the first of an annual conference for stroke survivors, will be taking place on 27-28 June at the Hilton Metropole, Birmingham. Key themes for this year's conference will include Life After Stroke, Stroke Voices and Welfare and Employment. Visit the [UK Stroke Assembly website](#) or contact [info@strokeassembly.org.uk](mailto:info@strokeassembly.org.uk) for more information.

### **Want to publicise your event?**

If so, please email [bulletin](#) with all the details. We are happy to publicise relevant not-for-profit events run by NHS, social care or charitable organisations.

### **Hot off the Press**

#### **National news**

[Heart beat problem 'largely avoidable'](#)

If individuals were to maintain a healthy weight and normal blood pressure and abstain from tobacco 57% of cases of atrial fibrillation (AF) could be averted, the US experts say.

[The Stroke Association teams up with CarelineUK for emergency alarm monitoring partnership](#)

The Stroke Association has joined a partnership that will see leading telecare response service CarelineUK provide personal emergency alarms and monitoring services to stroke survivors.

### [Study Suggests Antidepressants Aid Physical Recovery In Stroke](#)

A University of Iowa study finds that patients treated with a short course of antidepressants after a stroke have significantly greater improvement in physical recovery than patients treated with a placebo.

### **Local news**

#### [FAST campaign proves success in county](#)

NHS Northamptonshire has been backing the award winning national Act F.A.S.T stroke awareness campaign by stepping up local promotional activities throughout March.

### **Department of Health**

Issue 16 of the [Social Care Bulletin](#), March 2011 is now available.

### **NHS Evidence - stroke**

A practical library of high quality, evidence-based resources for people working in the field of stroke: [www.library.nhs.uk/stroke](http://www.library.nhs.uk/stroke)

### **Information for stroke survivors, carers and members of the public**

[NHS Choices - stroke](#) - the NHS information resource on stroke and TIA

[The Stroke Association](#) - information, support and news from The Stroke Association

[Different Strokes](#) – information and support for younger stroke survivors

[Connect](#) – information and support for people with aphasia

[Crossroads Care](#) – information for carers and stroke survivors about breaks and practical help at home

[Speakability](#) – Information for people with Aphasia and their carers.

### **Twitter!**

NHS Improvement is now on Twitter. Please click [here](#) to follow us for the latest news, events and updates from NHS Improvement.

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**Disclaimer:** The content of this bulletin does not necessarily reflect the views of the NHS Stroke Improvement Programme, but is provided as a rapid information service for staff involved in stroke improvement. 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?**

The NHS Stroke Improvement Programme (SIP) supports the implementation of the National Stroke Strategy and the development of Stroke Care Networks. SIP works closely with NHS and social care staff, the Department of Health and the voluntary sector. SIP is part of NHS Improvement. NHS Improvement is a national programme, working with clinical networks and NHS Organisations to transform, deliver and sustain improvements across the entire pathway of care in cancer, heart, diagnostics and stroke services.

