Welcome to Issues brief.

Each week this email provides a summary of news and issues relevant to our external stakeholders. Areas covered include Department of Health consultations or reports, parliamentary questions or debates and news from other regulators and professional bodies. We also provide a round-up of news from within the HCPC and relevant media coverage.

Issues brief can be found on the HCPC website > Publications > Issues brief

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1. Parliament

Geriant Davies MP tables Parliamentary Motion calling for regulation of counselors and psychotherapists by HCPC

Wording of the Early Day Motion (EDM):

That this House notes that anyone can set themselves up as a counselor or psychotherapist without training or experience with no recourse for the patient if something goes wrong; further notes that there are more than 50,000 registered counselors or psychotherapists and an unknown number unregistered; further notes that millions of people, often with mental health problems who are therefore vulnerable and at risk, are being given therapy in an unregulated industry with no uniform code of conduct or ethics; and calls on the Government to regulate counselors and psychotherapists by bringing them into the jurisdiction of the Health and Care Professions Council.

To read online click here

Ministerial statement on publication of Sir Bruce Keogh’s review of hospitals with high mortality rates

The Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has given a statement in the House of Commons following the publication of Sir Bruce Keogh’s review of hospitals with high mortality rates. The Minister
said eleven trusts of the fourteen investigated for high death rates had problems so entrenched that tough action was needed.

To read online click [here](#) and to read the full statement online click [here](#)

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## 2. Regulation

### Hospital inspections to be more robust, chief inspector says

The way hospital inspections in England have been carried out was flawed and they are to become broader and more robust, the new chief inspector says. He wants to recruit a "small army" of doctors, nurses, patients and carers to carry out inspections and ratings.

To read online click [here](#)

### The Francis Report responses: NMC and GPhC

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) have issued a formal response to the Francis Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. The General Pharmaceutical Council have also issued a position statement.

Read the NMC's response [here](#)
Read the GPhC’s position statement [here](#)

### More than 7,500 UK doctors revalidate in first six months of new checks by GMC

More than 7,500 doctors, including some of the UK’s most senior clinicians, have been revalidated by the General Medical Council (GMC) during the first six months of its new system of checks. The introduction of revalidation in December means the UK’s 235,000 licensed doctors are now legally required to show the GMC that they are competent and fit to practise.

To read online click [here](#)

### NMC acting more quickly to protect the public

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has released figures showing improvements in the imposing of Interim Orders. Data due to be reported to the NMC Council shows that Interim Orders, which prevent a nurse or midwife from practising or places restrictions on their practice whilst an NMC investigation is ongoing, were being imposed within 28 days in 94 per cent of cases during June 2013, beating the key performance indicator of 80 per cent.

To read online click [here](#)

### GDC approves “Standards for the Dental Team”

The General Dental Council (GDC) has published its new ‘Standards for the Dental Team’, which will replace its current Standards Guidance. All registrants have an individual responsibility to behave professionally and to follow the standards at all times.

To read online click [here](#)
PSA calls for information about encouraging candour

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) have this week launched a consultation on encouraging candour from UK health professionals and social workers in England. The Department of Health recently asked the PSA to advise how professional regulation can encourage these groups to be more candid about incidents that harm, or could have harmed, patients or social care service users.

To read online click here

Government accepts fertility and tissue regulators review

The government’s fertility and human tissue regulators will continue as separate bodies, Public Health Minister Anna Soubry has announced, following an independent review. The Department of Health had considered transferring the functions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and Human Tissue Authority (HTA) as part of the government’s commitment to cut the number of arm’s length bodies.

To read online click here

3. Social care

CQC announces Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has appointed Andrea Sutcliffe as its first Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care. Andrea joins CQC from the Social Care Institute for Excellence, where she is currently chief executive.

To read online click here

Review of Liverpool Care Pathway for dying patients

The Government is to replace the Liverpool Care Pathway and will ask senior clinicians to sign off all end of life care plans, as part of its response to the findings of an Independent Review, Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb announced.

To read online click here

New proposals to improve care for vulnerable older people

The health secretary has announced he is seeking views on a set of proposals to radically improve care for vulnerable older people. The proposals set out improvements in primary care and urgent and emergency care. They look at establishing ways for NHS and social care services to work together more effectively for the benefit of patients, both in and out of hospital.

To read online click here
4. Health and policy

Code of Conduct and Minimum Training Standards published

As part of the government response to the Francis report, a ‘Code of Conduct’ and ‘Minimum Training Standards’ for adult social care and healthcare support workers have been published by Skills for Health. The Department of Health will develop and publish these documents as part of its commitments set out in last summer’s ‘Caring for our future’ white paper.

To read online click [here](#)

RCN issues response to Francis inquiry report

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has published its response to the Francis Inquiry into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. The document outlines the RCN’s response to many of the 290 recommendations in the report and sets out the work the RCN has already undertaken, and what it believes should be done next.

To read online click [here](#)

IBMS responds to Francis Report

Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) President, Derek Bishop, has published a formal response to the Francis Report on behalf of the Institute.

To read online click [here](#)

5. HCPC news round up

HCPC launches consultation on standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) has launched a consultation to invite stakeholders for their views on proposed changes to the profession-specific standards of proficiency for operating department practitioners.

To read online click [here](#)

Consultation on reducing the number of council members for the HCPC

The Department of Health have launched a consultation seeking views on the impact of reducing the council membership of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), following the reduction in the council membership size of the General Medical Council, General Dental Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council in line with the recommendations in the Professional Standards Authority report, ‘Board size and effectiveness: advice to the Department of Health regarding health professional regulators’.

To read online click [here](#)