

Barnabas PPG

From: Barnabas PPG <barnabas.ppg@gmail.com>
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HWE_Mental_Health_Feedback_Session.pdf

To All Barnabas PPG Members ...
[Printed copies to those PPG members without email]

[If you can't read any of the attached documents, or want printed copies of anything mentioned, please contact me and I'll try to send you a copy.]

Welcome to the September bulletin for Barnabas PPG members. Apologies that this month's bulletin is slightly delayed.

PPG News

PPG Meeting – Wednesday 16 October

Following our social gathering on 14 August, our next meeting is on Wednesday 16 October, 1300 hrs, in St Barnabas Church Hall. Agenda to follow in next month's bulletin.

Meet the Patients

Having cancelled the last "Meet the Patients" at short notice, we plan to be in the waiting area again on the morning of Tuesday 24 September to talk to patients and answer questions. Do come along and join us, or just drop by for a chat.

Barnabas Bulletin

The September issue of the Practice's newsletter, *Barnabas Bulletin*, is now out. A copy is attached and printed copies should be in the waiting area from tomorrow (Monday 9th).

Local Healthcare News

Ealing CCG AGM

Ealing CCG are holding their AGM on Wednesday 18 September. Details in the attached flyer.

Healthwatch Ealing Mental Health Feedback Session

Our local Healthwatch are running a session on Thursday 19 September to report back on earlier feedback on mental health services. Again the details are in the attached flyer.

NW London CCGs Financial Position

The collaboration of CCGs across NW London are reporting a major financial shortfall for the current financial year. As a consequence many areas of activity are under scrutiny to see if money can be saved especially by avoiding wastage and standardising processes and treatments. I have seen some correspondence about this and it does not make happy reading. I'm sure we'll be hearing more about this as plans develop.

More General NHS News

No-Deal Brexit: Flu Vaccine Delays 'Likely'

The BBC reported at the end of August on the possibility of flu vaccine availability issues in the event of a no-deal Brexit. How accurate is this? Well who knows! BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-49487770>.

Older People on Many Medicines More Likely to Suffer Harm

The Guardian has reported that older people who are on multiple drugs are at increased risk of (sometimes life-threatening) harm due to the interaction of the drugs – often because drugs have not been tested in all the combinations used. Again read the full article at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/aug/22/older-people-at-risk-from-being-on-various-drug-regimens-report>.

New Technology to Spot Sepsis

Sepsis (blood poisoning) is a life-threatening response to an infection in the body, where the immune system damages tissues and organs. The NHS has initiated a major nationwide push to tackle the condition, using new "alert and action" to read patients' vital

signs and alert medics to worsening conditions, with the ambition to identify and treat all cases in 1-hour. Read the NHS news item at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/08/hundreds-of-lives-saved-through-new-tech-to-spot-sepsis/>.

High Street Heart Checks

The NHS is discussing various plans to tackle heart disease. One plan will allow pharmacists to identify potential patients and offer them blood pressure checks and referral to their GP. In a separate plan the NHS is discussing whether to allow pharmacists to prescribe statins, something which has alarmed many GPs. Read the heart checks item at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/09/high-street-heart-checks-on-the-nhs/> and the news report on prescription of statins at <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/sep/04/gps-alarmed-over-nhs-plans-to-allow-chemists-to-dispense-statins>.

What Should You Expect When You Leave Hospital?

Healthwatch England have published useful guidance on what you should expect to happen when you leave hospital. The top level news item is at <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/advice-and-information/2019-08-05/what-can-you-expect-when-you%E2%80%99re-discharged-hospital> and drilling down there is a useful checklist which patients can use to ensure they have everything they need.

Organ Donation Law is Changing

The law on organ donation in England is changing. From spring 2020, organ donation in England will move to an "opt out" system. This means that all adults in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die unless they have recorded a decision not to donate or are in one of the excluded groups. No link to this item as the webpage appears to be broken.

Newsletters

As always I've received a raft of newsletters. Here are those which you are most likely to find useful.

- **Healthwatch Ealing.** August newsletter at <https://healthwatchealing.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Healthwatch-Ealing-Newsletter-August-2019.pdf>. It is 11 pages, so no copy attached.
- **Ealing CCG.** You can find the latest (August) PPG-facing newsletter from the CCG at <https://www.ealingccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/patient-participation-groups/ppg-newsletters.aspx>, with many back issues too. Again this is too large to sensibly attach.

That's all for this month; more in early October.

Keith

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