~ Engagement policies may not improve patient experience
There are wide variations in how hospitals across Europe involve patients and promote person-centred care. However, hospitals with the most established and widespread engagement policies do not necessarily have higher patient experience scores. Patient-reported experience measures are being used to monitor the quality of care. This study examined whether hospitals with more mature quality management systems or a stronger focus on patient involvement and patient-centred care strategies perform better on patient-reported experience. Data were analysed from 74 randomly selected hospitals across Europe. People admitted after a heart attack had the highest scores on patient experience and hospital recommendation. Women who gave birth in hospital reported the highest scores for patient involvement and healthcare transition.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4494712/

~ Pediatric inpatient experience of care measure - Child HCAHPS
A new tool has been developed to measure children’s and parents’ experience in hospital. The tool was developed in the US and has been validated with a large sample. In the US a standardised survey is used to measure patient experience in hospital. This study sought to develop a paediatric version of the tool (Child HCAHPS). Development included a survey of parents, literature review, expert interviews, focus groups, cognitive testing and a national test with 69 hospitals and 17,727 participants (parents of children who had been hospitalised). The final tool had 62 items, including 39 focused on patient experience items, 10 screening questions, 12 demographic questions and one open-ended item. The tool was found to have good reliability at 300 responses per hospital. The survey is publicly available. Abstract

Blended learning is cost-effective, but set-up costs may be high

Blended learning’ means that teaching methods are combined, often using digital technologies. Researchers from Australia compared the cost-effectiveness of ten two-hour face-to-face classes versus blended learning for training doctors in evidence-based medicine. Blended learning involved the same ten face-to-face classes plus online and mobile learning such as YouTube and a library guide with electronic databases. It cost 24% less to educate a trainee to the same level of competency using the blended learning approach. However, the cost of set-up exceeded any savings in the first year of implementation. Approaches with higher transition costs or staffing requirements than traditional methods may not save money overall.


Funding for eating disorder services

NHS England has announced details of how it intends to distribute £30m of funding to improve eating disorder services aiming to achieve 95 per cent of patients being seen within four weeks or one week for urgent cases by 2020. NHS England has issued guidance to CCGs on submitting their Local Transformation Plans (LTPs) to improve mental health care for children and young people, including how they will develop eating disorder services.

http://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/08/03/cyp-mh-prog-launch/

National audit of children’s X-ray services

The Royal College of Radiologists has published a National Audit of Paediatric Radiology Services in Hospitals. The report highlights the extent to which UK hospitals are failing to meet recommendations to reduce the risk of missed or mistaken diagnoses of illness, disease or child abuse. That report recommends that all children should be examined and diagnosed by specialists with appropriate expertise. It also proposes the development of clinical networks to provide round-the-clock paediatric radiology expertise and advice to local, non-specialist hospitals.

https://www.rcr.ac.uk/posts/national-audit-children%E2%80%99s-x-ray-services-indicates-uk-hospitals-failing-meet-recommended

NICE Quality Standards – Drug Allergy / Nutrition

NICE has published two new quality standards, Drug allergy: diagnosis and management (QS97). This quality standard covers the diagnosis and management of drug allergy in adults, young people and children. It does not cover treatment of the acute phase, including anaphylaxis, this will be covered by a separate quality standard. http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs97

Nutrition: improving maternal and child nutrition (QS98), this quality standard covers improving nutrition before, during and after pregnancy (up to a year after birth) for women who may become pregnant, and for babies and pre-school children. It particularly focuses on low-income and other disadvantaged households. http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs98

NICE guidance - Melanoma: assessment and management

Melanoma is currently the fastest growing form of cancer which occurs when cells in the skin develop abnormally. It accounts for more deaths from cancer than all other skin cancers combined. NICE’s latest guideline aims to improve survival rates and reduce variation in the care of patients with melanoma. The guideline covers the full pathway of care, and includes recommendations on managing low vitamin D levels, and the use of sentinel lymph node biopsy for staging.

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