~ Healthcare for London: a framework for action
Details how Health Minister Professor Ara Darzi, believes London’s healthcare needs to change over the next ten years. The report, commissioned by NHS London, recommends a network of polyclinics across the capital that would provide many of the treatments currently provided in hospital, giving patients more care closer to home. A polyclinic would include GP surgeries, diagnostics such as x-ray and pathology, outpatient clinics, urgent care, minor procedures and associated services such as pharmacies.

~ Improving health and well-being
A report reviewing work undertaken by the Audit Commission over the last two years. It explains how the health of individuals and communities has improved over the last 10 years but that health inequalities between social groups and communities persist and in some cases has widened. Challenges highlighted include obesity rates and Britain’s binge drinking culture (one-third of accident and emergency department attendances are thought to be alcohol related, at a cost of £450 million to the NHS). Improving health and well-being

~ National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE): http://www.nice.org.uk/
  - NICE recommends varenicline for smoking cessation http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA123
  - Acutely ill patients in hospital http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG50
  - Drug misuse: opioid detoxification http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG52
  - Drug misuse: psychosocial interventions http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG51
~ **Cochrane Library – Issue 3, 2007 released**
A list of all the full systematic reviews and protocols added to the Cochrane Library in July 2007 can be viewed [here](#). These include: *Interventions to improve hand hygiene compliance in patient care*, *Multidisciplinary rehabilitation for patients with multiple sclerosis* and *Specialised antenatal clinics for women with a multiple pregnancy to improve maternal and infant outcomes*. To view the full text reviews please visit the [Cochrane Library](#).

~ **Nutrition Screening Week announced (25th – 27th September 2007)**
The British Association for Parental & Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN) is undertaking the first prospective national nutrition screening survey across both hospital and community care settings to find out the prevalence of malnutrition on admission to hospital and care today.

~ **Social enterprises and the NHS**
The report Social Enterprise and the NHS: Changing Patterns of Ownership and Accountability, an independent study funded by UNISON', poses a number of key questions and signals the need to keep rapid developments in the NHS under close and constant scrutiny. At the same time, there are important issues to consider around pension entitlements, Agenda for Change and terms and conditions. The report also points out that social enterprises may smooth the way for the greater private-sector involvement in primary care – whether intentionally or otherwise.

~ **Watchdog highlights best practice and areas for action in new report on healthcare-associated infection**
The Healthcare Commission has published a national study into healthcare-associated infection that outlines practical advice for trusts to consider in their attempts to reduce rates of infection. The report emphasises that while boards of trusts have to balance a range of priorities, the safety of patients is paramount.
[http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases.cfm/cit_id/5580/FAArea1/customWidgets.content_view_1/usecache/false](http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases.cfm/cit_id/5580/FAArea1/customWidgets.content_view_1/usecache/false)

~ **“You’re Not Alone”: RCN survey and campaign**
More than one third of nurses working alone have been assaulted or harassed in the last two years according to a survey released by the Royal College of Nursing. The survey of nearly 1,000 nurses also shows that 52% of nurses working alone thought that the threat of violence or abuse has increased over the same period. The RCN has also launched the “You’re not alone” campaign which calls on the government to honour its commitment to protect lone workers through funding training and technology, and Trusts to comply with their legal duty to protect nurses through a five-point plan of action.
RCN press release
[You’re not alone campaign leaflet](http://london.mapofmedicine.com/athensinfo/MoM+Quick+Ref+guide.pdf) (PDF)

~ **New Resource - Map of Medicine now available in London**
The Map of Medicine is an online clinical knowledge resource implemented in primary and secondary settings throughout the UK. More than 1500 pages, organised into 370 pathways, are presented in an visual format, offering evidence-based up-to-date information for Accident & Emergency, Medicine, Mental Health, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Oncology & Palliative Care, Paediatrics, and Surgery.
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