ONLINE LINKS

~ Patient choice: how patients choose and how providers respond
The King's Fund has published 'Patient choice: how patients choose and how providers respond'. This report considers how choice of provider is operating in practice and its impact on hospital providers. It aims to answer the following questions: how do patients experience choice?; what factors are important to patients when choosing between providers?; how do GPs support choice?; and how are providers responding to choice?

~ New initiative unveiled aimed at reducing harm to patients
The National Patient Safety Agency has announced plans to reduce levels of harm in 10 high risk patient safety areas. The ten areas that comprise 10 for 2010 include reducing pressure ulcers, preventing falls from occurring and ensuring clinicians are aware of the correct dosage of insulin when administering the drug to a patient.

Each of the ten high risk areas will have a clinical lead who will work with NHS organisations across England and Wales to raise awareness and implement working practices. NHS organisations will have to report compliance and progress with each of the 10 clinical areas to the NPSA.

~ Frontline services urged to follow vaginal swab guidelines
New guidance, produced by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) and NHS organisations across England and Wales, requires NHS organisations to have written procedures for swab counts at all births and to audit swab count practices in their maternity services.

The publication of this Rapid Response Report (RRR) follows 99 reported incidents, between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2009 of swabs, which are used for cleansing and to absorb blood and other fluids, being left in the vagina after birth and perineal suturing. Retained swabs can cause pyrexia*, infection, pain, post-partum haemorrhage* and psychological problems. The degree of harm assigned to these incidents ranges from no harm to severe.
~ Best practice guidelines for people with Parkinson’s disease published
Developed by College of Occupational therapy’s Specialist Section – Neurological Practice and produced in partnership with Parkinson’s UK, ‘Occupational therapy for people with Parkinson’s disease: Best practice guidelines’ use contemporary evidence to provide best practice examples of occupational therapy for people with Parkinson’s. Written as an accessible ‘pick up and use’ guide, this book includes practical examples of interventions to enable occupational therapists from health and social care settings across the world to apply new and existing treatments in their day-to-day practice, as well as being of interest to other health professionals, commissioners, service users and carers.
http://www.cot.org.uk/homepage/news/?l=l&ListItemID=1896&ListGroupID=266

~ Management of patients with stroke: rehabilitation
The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network has published ‘Management of Patients with Stroke – Rehabilitation, Prevention and Management of Complications, and Discharge Planning’ (Guideline 118). The guideline aims to assist individual clinicians, primary care teams and hospital departments to optimise their management of stroke patients. It replaces SIGN Guideline 64 published in 2002.
http://www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/118/index.html

~ Annual Evidence Updates from the NHS Evidence specialist collections in June
These are annual compilations of research on a particularly topic brought together in one place.

**From 7th June**
Annual Evidence Update on Atrial Fibrillation
NHS Evidence - cardiovascular
http://www.library.nhs.uk/cardiovascular

Annual Evidence Update on Osteoporosis and fragility fractures
NHS Evidence – musculoskeletal
http://www.library.nhs.uk/musculoskeletal/

**From 14th June**
Annual Evidence Update on Visual failure [Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)]
NHS Evidence - eyes and vision
http://www.library.nhs.uk/eyes/

Annual Evidence Update on Homeopathy
NHS Evidence - complementary and alternative medicine
http://www.library.nhs.uk/cam/

**From 21st June**
Annual Evidence Update on Oesophago-gastric Cancers
NHS Evidence - cancer; NHS Evidence - gastroenterology and liver diseases
http://www.library.nhs.uk/gastroliver/

**From 28th June**
Annual Evidence Update on Health needs of people with Learning Disabilities
NHS Evidence - learning disabilities
http://www.library.nhs.uk/learningdisabilities/
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