ONLINE LINKS (Recent News & publications from various websites and newsletter sources)

~ Improved care for a forgotten group – level of risk in abdominal surgery
'The Higher Risk General Surgical Patient: towards improved care for a forgotten group'. This Royal College of Surgeons report states that the NHS must address the significant variations in care experienced by the 170,000 patients who have major emergency abdominal surgery each year. Poorly designed hospital services, particularly access to emergency operating theatres and radiology treatment, are among the problems highlighted. The report also says there is a general lack of appreciation of the level of risk in emergency surgical patients - where death rates of 15 to 20 per cent are typical, and can be as high as 40 per cent in the most elderly patients. Surgeons say this imminent risk of death is not being reflected in the priority given to these patients whose chances of survival can more than double, depending on which NHS hospital they are treated in.
http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/news/address-variations-in-care-now-for-forgotten-patients-surgeons-tell-trusts

~ New guidance for neonatal physiotherapists
A guidance and competence framework for neonatal physiotherapists has been published in the UK for the first time by members of the Association of Paediatric Chartered Physiotherapists. The framework is designed as a tool for individuals to assess their own competence and identify learning needs, existing strengths and weaknesses.

~ Independent prescribing rights for physiotherapists?
Chartered Society of Physiotherapists chair Ann Green has welcomed the news that a public consultation has opened on independent prescribing rights for physiotherapists, following a two-year campaign to bring it about. The government consultation will gather opinion on the move, which would allow physiotherapists the same prescribing rights as other non-medical professionals like nurses and pharmacists.
Proposals to introduce independent prescribing by physiotherapists
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_129983
~ Measure outcomes to show the effectiveness of occupational therapy during OT Week
The increasing demand for the measurement of outcomes rather than processes (i.e. waiting times, number of clients seen) is an opportunity for occupational therapists to demonstrate the positive contribution they make in increasing their clients’ participation and well being.

~ Issues facing commissioners of end-of-life care
This King’s Fund report - ‘Issues facing commissioners of end-of-life care’. Uses objective information and interviews with a small group of commissioners, managers and clinicians to outlines issues around the current commissioning of end-of-life care including funding and the existence of a range of different contract arrangements and outlines the difficulties facing commissioners - for example, difficulties in defining end of life, calculating costs, specifying expected outcomes.
http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/endoflife_care.html

~ RCGP consultation on developing integrated care
Integrated care works to ensure that patients are central to the design and delivery of care and that services meet their healthcare needs through apparently seamless, high quality and effective systems. To ensure services are delivered as efficiently as possible the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) has launched the RCGP Integration of Care Consultation and is keen to gain as much comment on the issue as possible. The RCGP Integration of Care Consultation is available on the RCGP website, alongside an executive summary outlining the key issues. The survey is not just open to GPs and all comments are welcome. The closing date for this consultation is Monday 31 October 2011 at 09.00am.

~ Royal College of Nursing calls for longer hospital visiting times
The head of the Royal College of Nursing, Dr Peter Carter, has called for longer hospital visiting hours, arguing that help from friends and relatives leads to a better hospital experience for patients. In response, Chief Nursing Officer Christine Beasley said: “Carers and relatives do amazing work and we welcome and value their help but this must be in addition to NHS care, not instead of it.”
BBC report: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-15052636

~ Improving Access to Psychological Therapies
The IAPT programme has published ‘Working with under 18 year olds: Guidance for Commissioners, IAPT service providers and those working in IAPT services’. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to those working in IAPT services, as well as commissioners and providers of services, regarding working with under 18 year olds. The need for this guidance has arisen following reports from the British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP) that its members were being approached by IAPT services to provide training for services working with children as young as 13 at the request of commissioners.

LONDON HEALTH LIBRARY SERVICE UPDATE
~ New Proquest Platform launch
Provided through your local health library service and NHS London, ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source includes some materials not available through a general NHS database search. These include Evidence-Based Resources from the Joanna Briggs Institute; Cultural Competency Briefs; training videos; Dissertations and theses. The new platform is now in place and now includes deep indexing allowing searches for figures, tables etc within documents.
Access via http://www.hilo.nhs.uk/databases.html or http://search.proquest.com (Athens login required – contact your local health library)
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**INTRAVENTOUS THERAPY**


**LEARNING DISABILITIES**


**MANAGEMENT**

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