~ Unlocking Diagnosis: The key to improving the lives of people with dementia
The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia (APPG) has published a report ‘Unlocking Diagnosis: The key to improving the lives of people with dementia’. The report found that waiting times for memory services, which is a key component of the diagnosis process, varied across the country from just a few weeks to over a year. The average wait was reported to be at least three months. The APPG is calling for improvement of these services, with more investment, compulsory accreditation and better accountability to raise standards across the UK. Some key recommendations from the report are that there should be investment in a public dementia awareness campaign, prioritising of rates of diagnosis for public health directors, and improved support for people following a diagnosis of dementia.


~ Introducing the Atlas of Variation in Healthcare for People with Kidney Disease
The Kidney Care Atlas is a landmark in the study of variation in kidney care in England. Data from the UKRR and QOF, as well as other datasets, have been used to illustrate how aspects of healthcare specific to kidney disease vary. The indicators in the Kidney Care Atlas highlight only 18 of potentially numerous indicators relating to kidney care. They represent a sample of the variation in value and quality in renal services across England. “Simply meeting targets for investigation and treatment is not enough. It is through the efforts of individual clinical teams working on the shop-floor that change must be implemented, value increased and quality improved so that unwarranted variation can be addressed”

http://www.rightcare.nhs.uk/index.php/atlas/kidneycare

~ Introducing Health Education England
The Health Education England Transition Team has published ‘Introducing Health Education England’ to raise awareness of the role of Health Education England (HEE) and Local Education and Training Boards. It provides a basis for implementing the policy set out in Liberating the NHS: Developing the healthcare workforce – from delivery to design. It sets out the role of the new organisation for NHS chief executives, directors of HR, all staff in HEE sender organisations and trade unions. It outlines the vision and purpose, values and culture and the proposed advisory structure.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/06/introducing-hee/
~ Academic Health Science Networks role outlined
These will bring together NHS organisations, higher education and industry to identify, adopt and spread innovations in health care, increase participation in research and identify new opportunities to spread the lessons from research.  
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/06/ahcn/

~ Gynaecological Cancer Hub
The Gynaecological Cancer Hub provides data and intelligence on the gynaecological cancers in England. The Hub is aimed at a wide range of professionals working in the field, including NHS providers, commissioners, Cancer Networks, charities, gynaecologists, nurse specialists and other clinicians. It also provides information and helpful links for patients and the general public who would like to understand more about these cancers. The Hub has also been specifically designed to support the work of National Cancer Intelligence Network's gynaecological site-specific clinical reference group. It is maintained by Trent Cancer Registry, as NCIN lead registry for gynaecological cancers.  

~ Review of the Nursing and Midwifery Council
The final report of The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) strategic review of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has been published. The report highlights substantial failings in the delivery of NMC regulatory functions and in the management of the organisation. The report contains 14 recommendations. Among them, the NMC is told to improve its culture of "resigned resilience", which has seen staff either leave rapidly or become resigned to accepting poor standards. A new NMC chairman and chief executive are currently being sought. The regulator's interim chief executive, Jackie Smith, said: "The report highlights substantial failings. We recognise these and we are sorry."  
https://www.chre.org.uk/media/18/484/

~ Collection and reporting of PROMs data
The DoH has announced new arrangements for the collection and reporting of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) data which will apply from 1 October 2012. PROMs are a key priority as set out in the Government’s July 2010 White Paper, Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS, where the commitment was made to extend (PROMs) across the NHS. The NHS Outcomes Framework 2012/13 identifies PROMs as a key source of information about the outcomes of planned procedures and they will form a core part of Quality Accounts for 2012/13. It will remain a standard contract requirement for all providers of NHS funded hip replacement, knee replacement, varicose vein surgery and groin hernia repair procedures to collect and report PROMs data for 2012/13 and beyond.  
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/07/proms-collection-reporting/

~ Increase in whooping cough cases continues
The number of confirmed cases of pertussis in England and Wales reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) continues to rise, with 1,781 cases reported to the end of May 2012, compared to a total of 1,118 cases across the whole of 2011. It affects all regions in England with some areas reporting clusters in schools and healthcare settings. Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, affects all ages; however the ongoing increase in cases this year has extended to very young babies who have the highest risk of severe complications and death. Dr Mary Ramsay, head of immunisation at the HPA said: “The HPA is working closely with the Department of Health and NHS colleagues to monitor the situation and make recommendations to control the spread of infection. In addition, we are working closely with health professionals and the public to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms.”  

~ Allied Health Professionals Bulletin
The Department of Health has published Allied Health Professionals Bulletin June 2012 (Issue 89). This issue includes articles on the information strategy, AHP Leader Profile: Peter Eckersley, the Calderdale Framework, N3 enabling 21st century healthcare, report on end of life care in England, developing the long term conditions outcomes strategy, QISMET publishes standard for health management programmes and interventions, Occupational therapy vital for stroke recovery, new NHS information service for parents, and medical aids for daily living.  
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