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

~ Assessing the impact of age on access to surgical treatment
The Royal College of Surgeons, Age UK and MHP Health Mandate have published a report 'Access all Ages: assessing the impact of age on access to surgical treatment'. It urges clinicians to inform patients if surgery has been ruled out for a condition where it would normally be considered and provide reasons, and says that there should be no informal 'cut-offs' and that older patients and their families must be supported to challenge this where they suspect it is happening.
Report:  http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/publications/docs/access-all-ages
BBC News report: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-19922819

~ Urological Cancer Deaths in England 2001-10
The National End of Life Care Programme has published ‘Deaths from Urological Cancers in England 2001-10’. Nearly 16,000 people die from a urological cancer each year, and about 5,000 more die with urological cancer as a contributory factor. Urological cancers include penile, prostrate, testicular, kidney, renal pelvis and ureter, and bladder cancers. The aim of the report is to help the end of life commissioners and providers improve service delivery in line with the needs and wishes of patients. People dying with a urological cancer have specific end of life needs. This report highlights variations by cancer type, age, sex, region, place of death and socioeconomic status, which helps understand those needs better. The report also includes information on cancer admission costs in the last year of life and how they vary by type of urological cancer.

~ Getting to grips with integrated 24/7 emergency and urgent care
A report by NHS Alliance and NHS Clinical Commissioners ‘Getting to grips with integrated 24/7 emergency and urgent care. A practical way forward for clinical commissioners’, aims to support commissioners implement effective integrated 24/7 urgent care strategies in their local areas. The report focuses on a wide range of CCGs across the North West of England as well as four CCGs working together across East Kent, in order to highlight some of their learning and the opportunities for new clinical commissioners in developing an integrated approach to urgent care, as well as the risks if it goes wrong.
http://www.nhsalliance.org/documents/view-latest/
~ NICE guidance: Crohn's disease
NICE has published 'Crohn's disease: Management in adults, children and young people' (CG159) which is aimed at all healthcare professionals involved in Crohn's disease management. Recommendations include: offer monotherapy with a conventional glucocorticosteroid (prednisolone, methylprednisolone or intravenous hydrocortisone) to induce remission in people with a first presentation or a single inflammatory exacerbation of Crohn's disease; discuss with people with Crohn's disease, and/or their carer if appropriate, options for management when in remission, including both no treatment and treatment; and consider surgery early as an alternative to medical treatment for people whose disease is limited to the distal ileum (small intestine).
http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG152

~ New implementation guidance to support spasticity guideline
A key tool has been published to support a recent guideline published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Nice) on spasticity. Support for education and learning: practice-based implementation advice considers implementation issues on the guidance. The guideline definitively stated that children and teenagers diagnosed with spasticity should be assessed promptly by an occupational therapist where necessary.
http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG145/ImplementationAdvice/doc/English

~ New Evidence Updates from NICE
‘Generalised anxiety disorder in adults - Evidence Update September 2012’ and ‘Management of stable angina - Evidence Update September 2012’ have been published. NICE Evidence Updates help to reduce the need for individuals, managers and commissioners to search for new evidence, and keep health and social care professionals up-to-date with new research.

~ Make ward rounds the cornerstone of care, say RCP and RCN
Vital ward rounds are being neglected in hospitals - to the detriment of patients, says a report by the royal colleges of physicians and nursing. In it they state that there is a need for them to be re-prioritised and become a "cornerstone" of daily life in hospitals again. The guidance says they are essential for communicating with patients, monitoring progress and arranging treatment and discharge.

~ Safe staffing for older people’s wards
This toolkit provides practical help when assessing nursing staff levels on older people’s wards, or wards where the large majority of patients are older people, and when checking whether they meet recommendations for safe care. It can be used to support a review of staffing on hospital wards where older people are cared for; to help address any associated leadership and workforce issues; and to guide the development of an action plan to identify how, and to whom, actions should be addressed.

~ New standards for hospital food
The Department of Health has announced new standards for NHS hospital food. A set of basic principles covering the quality of food, nutritional content and choice for patients will be backed up by new inspections led by patients. The principles state that nutritious and appetising hospital food and drink is essential. Patients will get a choice from a varied menu, including meals suitable for religious needs and all patients should have access to fresh drinking water at all times, unless it contradicts clinical advice.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/10/hospital-food/

~ Resources to support the 2012 European Antibiotic Awareness day in England
The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control has created information and educational materials for use in hospitals and primary care settings on European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD), on 18 November 2012. This Europe-wide public health initiative is supported in England by the Department of Health and its advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance and health care associated infections (ARHAI). These educational materials, will help support local activity on EAAD and to promote responsible use of antibiotics. The resources consist of a key messages document, 3 posters and a leaflet for use in primary or secondary care. Specific resources for primary and secondary care are also listed.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/10/eaad-resources/
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On a hidden game board: the patient’s first encounter with emergency care at the emergency department. *J. of Clinical Nursing* 21(17/18) Sep 2012 p. 2609-16

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**INFORMATION & COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY**

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**LEARNING DISABILITIES**

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**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

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