~ Daily aspirin 'reduces cancer risk', study finds - behind the Headlines
Could taking aspirin every day could cut your risk of developing cancer? Previous studies have linked aspirin with reduced cancer risk. While the findings on aspirin and cancer show promise, it is not clear that the results are reliable from the methods reportedly used to compile this review. This is because it included studies of varying design and quality, with much of the evidence coming from observational studies, which, while useful, cannot be totally relied on to test the effectiveness of healthcare interventions.

~ Staff experience and patient outcomes
There are clear links between improved staff experience and better care for patients, says a report commissioned by NHS Employers on behalf of NHS England. It concludes "Overall, there is a substantial amount of recent evidence that the experiences of staff, particularly in the form of support received from supervisors and others, and staff engagement, are associated with the care provided to patients, in the form of patient satisfaction, health outcomes, and ratings of quality of care, as well as staff absenteeism and turnover.

~ Delayed hospital discharges research
The Centre for Health Economics has published a research paper Testing the bed-blocking hypothesis: does higher supply of nursing and care homes reduce delayed hospital discharges? Looking at the extent to which higher more nursing home beds or lower prices can reduce hospital bed blocking. Using new Local Authority level data from England on hospital delayed discharges in 2010-13, the results suggest that delayed discharges do respond to the availability of care-home beds but the effect is modest: an increase in care-homes bed by 10% (250 additional beds per Local Authority) would reduce delayed discharges by about 4%-7%. The paper also finds strong evidence of spillover effects across Local Authorities: higher availability of care-homes or fewer patients aged over 65 in nearby Local Authorities are associated with fewer delayed discharges.
CQC proposals for special measures for GP practices
The Care Quality Commission has announced plans to introduce a new 'special measures' regime for GP practices. Practices offering poor care will be given deadlines to make improvements and faced with closure if they fail. The CQC will begin to introduce special measures for GP practices from October this year. This will coincide with starting to rate 8,000 NHS GP practices on the basis of whether they are outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate. CQC press release
http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/cqcs-proposals-special-measures-gp-practices

Ebola outbreak in Africa: what nursing staff need to know
WHO has declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a public health emergency of international concern. The RCN has issued advice and information for nursing staff. "While the situation in the UK remains unchanged and the current risk low, vigilance is advised. Being prepared for patients presenting with high-risk infections such as viral haemorrhagic fevers is not new and this is a good opportunity to remind members to consider what they need locally in line with their local infection control policies." Availability of protective clothing and FIT testing for respiratory protection are two of the key areas to think about.
http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/uk/ebola_outbreak_in_africa_what_nursing_staff_need_to_know

Communicable disease outbreak management
Public Health England has published Communicable disease outbreak management: operational guidance. It is a framework for working across the new public health structures in local authorities, NHS England and other relevant bodies and is for use in local and national outbreak management. This guidance can also be used to support Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England Area Teams to make sure that commissioned services have plans for responding to an outbreak. Local Health Resilience Partnerships can also use it when putting together Emergency Preparedness Resilience and Response plans.

Patients to benefit from new NHS England ‘Accessible Information Standard’
NHS England has launched a consultation on a draft accessible information standard. This provides guidelines for organisations on how they should make sure that patients, their carers and parents, understand the information they are given. Including information prepared in different formats if they need it, for example in large print, braille, easy read or via email. The draft will be considered for approval by the SCCI in August and the aim is for it to be approved in spring 2015, following which it is currently proposed that organisations will have 12 months to comply. The consultation closes on 9 November 2014.

Evidence from voluntary and community sector to improve health outcomes
NHS Confederation has published a briefing Comparing apples with oranges? How to make better use of evidence from the voluntary and community sector to improve health outcomes. The briefing provides an overview of the knowledge, expertise and insight that voluntary and community sector organisations hold about their local communities and diverse groups of people within these, as well as the different ways this knowledge can be used to enhance JSNAs and commissioning. A poster has also been published alongside the briefing.
http://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/2014/08/comparing-apples-with-oranges

RCN welcomes NHS whistleblowing review call for evidence
The RCN has welcomed Sir Robert Francis’ call for evidence for his review into NHS whistleblowing. Health service staff are being urged to share their experiences of raising concerns about inadequate standards. http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/uk/rcn_welcomes_nhs_whistleblowing_review_call_for_evidence

London trust’s OH physio service recognised as example of proactive practice
UCLH’s intervention occupational health (OH) physiotherapy service has been hailed as a leading example of proactive practice.
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HILLMAN, A  

HITCHCOCK, M  

INNES, K  

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