

click for >  
further  
detail

**1.** Local health profiles published online  
Support tools available

**2.** Next Stage Review web conference with David Nicholson  
Register now for places

**3.** Celebrating 60 years of research  
Increased patient involvement announced

### Policy news

No news this week

### Consultations and evaluations

1. Adult social care workforce strategy
2. Controlling prices of branded NHS medicines

### Publications

3. Publication of 2007 abortion data
4. New NHS contracts e-bulletin
5. External support for commissioners

### Conference/ events

- i **what's new**  
6. NHS Live online and on TV
- ii **places still available**  
No news this week

### Patient safety alerts

7. Medical device alert – MDA/2008/041
8. Medical device alert – MDA/2008/040
9. Medical device alert – MDA/2008/042



^ click above  
links for  
further detail

## select a section...

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> [On the agenda](#)  
> [Policy news](#)

> [Consultations  
and evaluations](#)

> [Publications](#)  
> [Conference/events](#)

> [Patient safety alerts](#)  
> [Need help?](#)

## On the agenda

### 1. Local health profiles published online

Health Profiles 2008 are now available to view online. The profiles give a snapshot of health for each local council using key health indicators such as smoking and life expectancy rates. This enables comparison locally, regionally and over time. Alongside the profiles, DH commissioned the London Health Observatory to produce the Health Inequalities Intervention Tool to support all PCTs and local authorities with local delivery planning and commissioning to narrow gaps in life expectancy.

[Access the press notice](#)

[Access the tool](#)

### 2. Next Stage Review web conference with David Nicholson

David Nicholson will be hosting a live web conference on Tuesday 1 July from NHS Live with chief executives to discuss the Next Stage Review. Clare Chapman and Mark Britnell will be joining David, and there will be an opportunity to submit questions to them beforehand. The web conference will take place from 11.45am – 12.30pm. Places are limited so please click on this link to register your interest in taking part.

[Register here](#)

### 3. Celebrating 60 years of research

A new report to commemorate '60 years of research in the NHS benefiting patients' is now available. Speaking at a summit to commemorate the milestone, Health Secretary Alan Johnson set out new plans to ensure that patients are made aware of research that is of particular relevance to them. This could mean a patient with Parkinson's disease, for example, would be told about any ongoing research into their condition and might be able to take part in trials that could lead to an improvement or even cure.

[Access press notice](#)

[Read the report](#)

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> On the agenda  
> Policy news

> Consultations  
and evaluations

> Publications  
> Conference/events

> Patient safety alerts  
> Need help?

## Consultations and evaluations

### 1. Adult social care workforce strategy (Gateway reference numbers: 9992)

This interim statement identifies the key issues for the workforce as set out in Putting People First and develops these into broader, strategic workforce priorities. It provides all stakeholders, whether public service or private and voluntary sector, with a high-level overview of strategy development prior to finalisation of the full adult social care workforce strategy.

**Link:**

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH\\_085642](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_085642)

**Action:**

- You can submit views and answers to questions posed in the statement to [socialcareworkforcestrategy@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:socialcareworkforcestrategy@dh.gsi.gov.uk) by Friday 12 September 2008.

### 2. Controlling prices of branded NHS medicines

#### (Gateway reference number: 10092)

Following agreement on key components of a new Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, DH has launched a consultation on proposals for a statutory scheme controlling the prices of branded NHS medicines from 1 September 2008. These measures will apply to companies who do not sign up to the voluntary scheme.

**Link:**

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_085523](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_085523)

**Action:**

- Trusts can comment by 15 July 2008 on a statutory price freeze and by 25 September 2008 on the price cut and measures to limit the prices of out of patent brands.

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> On the agenda  
> Policy news

> Consultations  
and evaluations

> Publications  
> Conference/events

> Patient safety alerts  
> Need help?

## Publications

### 3. Publication of 2007 abortion data (Gateway reference number: 10098)

The 2007 data shows increases in abortions for those aged under 18. Guidance on the importance of improving access to contraception, including use of new funding, to support reductions in teenage conceptions can be accessed through the link below.

#### Links:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Sexualhealth/DH\\_085686](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Sexualhealth/DH_085686)

#### Action:

- There is important information here for PCTs about improving access to contraception.

### 4. New NHS contracts e-bulletin (Gateway reference number: 10109)

This is the second edition in a series of monthly updates on the development of new standard NHS contracts for mental health, community and ambulance services. This edition provides updates on the review exercises currently being undertaken for mental health and acute services.

#### Link:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Commissioning/Systemmanagement/DH\\_085048](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Commissioning/Systemmanagement/DH_085048)

#### Action:

- Chief executives are invited to study these updates in preparation for implementation in 2009.

### 5. External support for commissioners (Gateway reference number: 10125)

This letter is to inform PCT chief executives of revised FESC (Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners) governance requirements for PCTs to follow, giving a streamlined procurement timetable. The commercial and technical support role will increasingly move from DH to SHAs. To assist this, FESC awareness sessions and workshops are being arranged through SHAs.

#### Link:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_085761](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_085761)

#### Action:

- PCT chief executives need to know about this updated procurement process.

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> [On the agenda](#)  
> [Policy news](#)

> [Consultations  
and evaluations](#)

> [Publications](#)  
> [Conference/events](#)

> [Patient safety alerts](#)  
> [Need help?](#)

## Conferences and events

### 6. NHS Live online and on TV (Gateway reference number: 10113)

The NHS Live: energising innovation conference, part of the NHS 60th celebrations, will be streamed live via the internet on 1 July. Speakers include David Nicholson, Lord Darzi and Health Minister Ann Keen. Proceedings will also be broadcast on Sky TV.

#### Link:

[www.institute.nhs.uk/news/nhs\\_live\\_news/news\\_1.html](http://www.institute.nhs.uk/news/nhs_live_news/news_1.html)

#### Action:

- You can register now for NHS Live online.

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> On the agenda  
> Policy news

> Consultations  
and evaluations

> Publications  
> Conference/events

> Patient safety alerts  
> Need help?

## Patient safety alerts

### 7. Medical device alert – MDA/2008/041 (Gateway reference number: 10119)

**Device:** Electrosurgical single-use, sterile blades and needles. 'Universal' and 'Ultraclean' electrodes manufactured by ConMed.

**Link:**

[www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON018119](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON018119)

**Action:**

- This Medical Device Alert was issued on 17 June 2008 to NHS trusts for action.

### 8. Medical device alert – MDA/2008/040 (Gateway reference number: 10118)

**Device:** Chest drain: Thoraseal II chest drainage unit manufactured by Covidien, formerly Tyco Healthcare. Catalogue number: 1180571570 Batch Numbers: 07I742E, 07I751E, 07J513E NHS Supply Chain code: FSW176.

**Link:**

[www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON018114](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON018114)

**Action:**

- This Medical Device Alert was issued on 17 June 2008 to NHS trusts for action.

### 9. Medical device alert – MDA/2008/042 (Gateway reference number: 10117)

**Device:** FocalSim radiotherapy treatment planning software manufactured by Computerized Medical Systems Inc. FocalSim software versions 4.3.1 to 4.34.02 inclusive.

**Link:**

[www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON018133](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetywarnings/MedicalDeviceAlerts/CON018133)

**Action:**

- This Medical Device Alert was issued on 18 June 2008 to NHS trusts for immediate action.

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> [On the agenda](#)  
> [Policy news](#)

> [Consultations  
and evaluations](#)

> [Publications](#)  
> [Conference/events](#)

> [Patient safety alerts](#)  
> [Need help?](#)

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If you have trouble opening the attachment or accessing links please email [mb-web-feedback@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mb-web-feedback@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

### General comments

If you would like to make general comments on **the week** please contact Phil Cohen by email at [theweek@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:theweek@dh.gsi.gov.uk) or by faxing 020 7972 5851 or by writing to Room 449, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Department of Health, London SW1A 2NS.