



NHS Newsweek 28/05/10

Liaison fills demand for quality Payroll service in the NHS

During this unsettled time with increasing financial pressure on the NHS, the identification of payroll overpayments caused by errors can uncover hidden cash, ready for recovery back into the NHS. Payroll is one of the largest spends in the NHS. Given the magnitude of the payroll within the NHS, a small % error rate can result in significant overpayments and unnecessary cash outflow. Andy Armitage, Liaison's Managing Director said: "Of all the new services we've offered the NHS over the past 12 months our Payroll review service is the most sought after. We have already started payroll reviews at a number of NHS Trusts, many of which are from contracts agreed and signed by Trusts during the HFMA conference back in December. Our Payroll service was so popular Trusts were happy to sign up there and then. We will also be attending the NHS Confederation conference at the ACC in Liverpool on 23- 25 June so if you would like to talk to us about Payroll or any of our services do come along and see us".

Source or Extract: Liaison

SHAs to be abolished by 2012

New Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has told senior managers he believes there will be no need for SHAs once his independent NHS commissioning board is established. They will be abolished by 2012. He therefore plans to include legislation abolishing the statutory authorities in his NHS bill expected later this year. Mr Lansley can only abolish SHAs through legislation as they have statutory duties which will require unravelling. However, sources at SHAs told HSJ they would start "winding down" immediately, not least because they have been given management cost reduction targets in excess of 30 per cent.

Source of Extract: HSJ

Shamed NHS bosses may pay £450k to Cumbrian carers

NHS Cumbria was among the health trusts shamed for spending money – believed to be about £450,000 – allocated for carer respite elsewhere. In 2008, the Labour government announced a national windfall of £150m to fund respite breaks for unpaid carers. The funding was distributed via local primary care trusts, but was never ring-fenced. This meant that in many areas the money was swallowed up by other services. Nationally, it is estimated only 23 to 25 per cent of the cash actually made it through, and in Cumbria research by the Princess Royal Trust for Carers shows none of the funds allocated during 2009/10 were specifically spent on carer respite breaks.

Source of Extract: News & Star

Health Bill - Extract from Queen's Speech

Health Bill -

- will seek to give health professionals and patients more say over NHS decision-making;
- will cut health service quangos and some central targets and increase focus on "health inequalities".

Source of Extract: BBC News

Edwards hails "interesting" NHS policy changes

NHS policy will undergo "considerable" change under the new coalition government, according to a senior official. Nigel Edwards, director of policy at the NHS Confederation, described changes to the way PCT boards and Chief Executives are appointed as "interesting", and added that they could help make the way decisions are taken at a local level more transparent. He did, however, add that the need to find £20bn of savings by 2014 had to be considered in tandem with the changes.

Source of Extract: Management in Practice

PCT pulls plug on Sainsbury's GP practice

The first in-store GP practice set up by supermarket giant Sainsbury's has closed two years after opening, due to the project's high cost. **NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale** is withdrawing funding from the project in Heaton Park, Manchester, as local GPs are now providing extended hours at a lower cost. The practice was opened in early 2008 as part of a government drive to introduce competition in primary care and improve access.

Source of Extract: Healthcare Republic

Southend Hospital job cut details to be finalised says boss

Hospital Chief Executive John Gilham stressed the plan to cut staff is still in draft form and details are yet to be finalised. He said in a statement: "As a trust we recognise **NHS South East Essex** has less funding, as do all NHS organisations in the current economic climate. "In the coming years, we fully expect to be working differently, particularly as the trust moves to provide more services in the community. "Naturally our staff will be affected, but the trust's principal approach is to manage this through natural turnover and redeployment. "Southend Hospital has a duty to work with NHS South East Essex to achieve positive changes in care for all our patients. The trust will support NHS South East Essex in its ambitions.

Source of Extract: Echo

GPs take back community services in radical commissioning shake-up

GPs have come up with a radical new business model to keep community services based in primary care, which would see them take control over the acute and community budgets of their PCT. ESYDOC, a partnership of 20 practices in Surrey, has put forward proposals under the Department of Health's Transforming Community Services programme aimed at taking charge of budgets across the community, acute and social care sectors, which they claim would be the first deal of its kind in the country. Their plan is the latest example of GPs trying to wrest back influence over community services in the controversial Government money-saving shake up.

Source of Extract: Pulse

NHS has saved £23m

The NHS in Scotland saved almost £23 million through more cost-effective buying and delivery of equipment, Public Health Minister Shona Robison has said. The work of health service body National Procurement was highlighted at the annual review of parent organisation NHS National Services Scotland. Ms Robison said securing the best value for money is "vital" for the NHS.

Source of Extract: Press Association

NHS 'reorganisation' is outlined

The NHS in England is to be reorganised with Strategic Health Authorities downgraded, the government has confirmed. The 10 existing authorities plan health services and training for healthcare professionals. The Lib Dem manifesto described them as the least effective part of the health service, and promised to abolish them. The coalition government has now confirmed an independent board for the NHS which will set priorities. A spokesman for the Department of Health said: "The board will combine functions currently provided by the Department of Health and Strategic Health Authorities, and deliver these in a much more streamlined way.

Source of Extract: BBC News

Thousands of jobs at risk as Strategic Health Authorities face axe

Strategic Health Authorities will be abolished by 2012, throwing the job security of over 3,000 staff in doubt. HSJ.co.uk broke the news on Monday after the Department of Health told SHA Chiefs there was no place for them in the new government's plans to manage commissioning through an independent NHS board. Providers will be overseen by an expanded Monitor, which the DH says will become an economic regulator. A "Q&A" document circulated by the DH among SHAs on Tuesday stated bluntly: "Subject to legislation, the NHS commissioning board will become fully operational from April 2012, removing the need for separate statutory strategic health authorities".

Source of Extract: HSJ

NHS Confederation Chief Executive Steve Barnett resigns

Steve Barnett, Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, has resigned and will step down next month. Mr Barnett was appointed Chief Executive of the organisation in February last year, after 10 months acting in the post. He will step down on 17 June, the week before the organisation's annual conference. The Confederation's Director of Policy Nigel Edwards will act as Interim Chief Executive while a permanent replacement is found. Mr Barnett's resignation comes at a time when the organisation and its subsidiary NHS Employers have been under scrutiny over Employer's failed plans for an ambitious outsourcing service.

Source of Extract: HSJ

NHS London Chairman quits over government policy change

Sir Richard Sykes, the Chairman of **NHS London** has resigned after stating his vision of healthcare delivery had "little in common" with that of the new government. In a letter to the health secretary Andrew Lansley, he said he thought his work had made real improvements for Londoners. Other NHS London board members may also leave, Sir Richard also claimed.

Source of Extract: BBC News

NHS Dumfries and Galloway staff attacks show 35% rise

The number of assaults on **NHS staff in Dumfries and Galloway** has increased by 35% over the past two years. A Freedom of Information request by Dumfries MSP Elaine Murray showed there were 313 recorded incidents in 2009 compared with 232 in 2007. She said "tough punishments" needed to be imposed to make it clear such attacks would not be tolerated. An NHS spokesman said the figures were a concern and every effort was being made to tackle the situation.

Source of Extract: BBC News

Chair NHS Peterborough steps down

The Chairman of a health trust which overspent by £12.8m has stepped down. Marco Cereste, who is also leader of Peterborough City Council, stepped down from his role at NHS Peterborough to concentrate more on council business. Earlier this month, **NHS Peterborough** said it needed to save £20m between 2010 and 2011 by ensuring services were "more co-ordinated and efficient". The trust praised Mr Cereste for his dedication to "improving services for the people of Peterborough".

Source of Extract: BBC News

Conflict of interest for NHS regulator

The planned new economic regulator for the NHS will face a conflict of interest between its duty to promote competition and oversee the financial health of foundation trusts, the head of the trusts' watchdog conceded on Thursday. Under the coalition's plans for the NHS, an independent board is to be created to oversee the commissioning of care. The current inspectorate, the Care Quality Commission, is expected to hand over its licensing of health organisations to Monitor. Monitor is expected to expand to become "a full-scale economic regulator" for the NHS, according to Steve Bundred, chairman. This, he said, would involve controlling exit and entry to the market for NHS care through its licensing powers, responsibility for setting the price the NHS pays public, private and voluntary providers for care, along with a duty to promote competition. At the same time, however, Monitor would remain responsible for overseeing the health of foundation trusts.

Source of Extract: Financial Times

East Lancashire NHS workers to pay for own CRB checks

NHS workers are being forced to pay for checks to prove to bosses that they don't have a criminal record. Health workers employed by **NHS East Lancashire** require a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check when they start employment, and again every three years. Depending on whether they require a standard or an enhanced CRB check, they cost either £26 or £36. In the past the primary care trust, which covers Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley has always met this cost. But since April as part of cost-cutting measures the trust has passed that responsibility over to around 2,700 employees, a move that has shocked and angered NHS workers and unions.

Source of Extract: Lancashire Telegraph

The next Liaison NHS Newsweek will appear on Friday 11 June