



Welcome

Welcome to this week's newsletter

A note from the Executive Director

Last Saturday I achieved an ambition that I've had since 1971! I saw Melanie in concert. For those of you who don't know, Melanie came to prominence at the Woodstock Festival and had hits in the early seventies. Her biggest hit, 'Brand New Key' was, by her own admission, her worst record! Anyway, she was on stage for two-and-a-quarter hours and was brilliant!

Coincidentally, last week someone showed me a copy of the programme for the 1971 National Association of Hospital Supplies Officers (the forerunner of the current Association) Summer School. I recognised quite a few of the names of the students who went on to become senior managers in the NHS, and one who became a regional supplies manager.

Which, by my usual circuitous route, brings me to the Summer School for this year. The response has been very good, but I have received a few complaints that the closing date for applications of 22 June does not give managers or potential students sufficient time to get their application and statement forms signed and forwarded. Therefore, we are extending the closing date for receipt of applications by two weeks to 6 July, which should give sufficient time.

Full details of the Summer School can be obtained either by [emailing](#) me or by clicking [here](#) for the link on our website.

I look forward to receiving your completed applications and also to Melanie's next concert!

John Smith
Executive Director

News

Government launches consultation on new streamlined health and social care complaints system

The Department of Health is launching a consultation paper on a new approach to dealing with complaints in health and social care which will make it easier for people to complain when things go wrong.

[More...](#)

LIFT schemes reach new height

The NHS has celebrated receiving the go-ahead for the 200th new health centre built under the Government's NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) programme, aimed at improving community health services in some of the country's poorest and most deprived areas. [More...](#)

Chair of SLaM appointed for third term

Madeliene Long has been appointed Chair of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) for a further four years. [More...](#)

NHS given extra support in fight against TB

The Department of Health has announced extra help for the NHS in tackling the spread of TB. [More...](#)

New heart palpitation clinic launched

Barts and The London NHS Trust is launching a new clinic that will give patients fast access to expert medical care if they are suffering from heart palpitations and blackouts. [More...](#)

Major milestones reached for south west Northern Ireland hospitals

Northern Ireland Health Minister Michael McGimpsey marked a major milestone in health services in the south west when he cut the sod on the new acute hospital in Enniskillen. [More...](#)

New mental health coalition secures key improvements to mental health bill

A coalition representing some 85 per cent of NHS mental health staff has welcomed amendments tabled by the Government to revise conditions relating to Supervised Community Treatment orders in the Mental Health Bill. [More...](#)

First NHS-owned company in England launched

Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust has launched Odstock Medical Limited - the first NHS-owned limited company in England to market a service worldwide. [More...](#)

News can be read at: <http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk>

This Week's Reports

[National Electronic Social Care Record survey report - 2006-07](#)

This report presents the findings of a national survey of the status of Electronic Social Care Records (ESCR) in England. The survey was commissioned by the NHS Connecting for Health Electronic Social Care Record Implementation Board and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), with the support of David Behan, Director General for Social Care.

[Report of the National Patient Choice Survey, England - January 2007](#)

This report gives the final results of 73,000 responses to the fifth national patient choice survey commissioned to assess the implementation of choice at primary care trust (PCT) level. The series of surveys, conducted by Ipsos MORI, monitor patient awareness of

choice and recall of having been offered a choice of hospital for their first outpatient appointment. The surveys were designed to provide a national overview of choice and summary results at PCT level.

Clean, safe care: reducing MRSA and other healthcare associated infections - a national update

In November 2004, the Department of Health announced its target to halve the number of meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteraemia by 2008. Now in its third year, the MRSA/Cleaner Hospitals programme has seen a huge surge in learning on how to reduce healthcare associated infection (HCAI) and, most importantly, a noticeable decrease in the number of MRSA infections.

Informing Healthier Choices: Information and Intelligence for Healthy Populations

The strategy sets out the Department of Health's vision for information and intelligence to support implementation of the public health White Paper 'Choosing Health: making healthier choices easier'. It includes a framework and an overview of plans for delivery.

Our health, our care, our say - one year on: making it happen - the third sector

This report details the points raised at the event held on 12 March 2007. It includes points raised in workshop session discussions and the final plenary session, and also gives a brief description of current and future departmental work in these areas.

Department of Health: Improving the use of temporary nursing staff in NHS acute and foundation trusts

On the basis of a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Committee of Public Accounts examined the cost and extent of use of temporary nurses in the NHS; whether the NHS has taken a planned approach to controlling and managing the supply and demand of temporary nurses; and the safety and quality issues associated with the use of temporary nurses. The Committee also took evidence from the Department of Health and NHS employers.

Reports can be found at:

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/reports/>

Events

Health Care Supply Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2007

1-2 November, Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon

Register before 31 July for early bird discount

This will be the Association's 37th Annual Conference and, as in previous years, we have created a stimulating and topical event designed specifically for purchasing and supply professionals involved in the support of health care. Attendance is open to members and non-members working in the field of purchasing and supply, to other

healthcare professionals and to representatives of companies who supply to the healthcare sector.

The theme this year is 'Can the NHS Afford to Buy Quality?' and is designed to reflect the increasing pressure on budgets in general and procurement departments in particular in the modern NHS.

The Conference, to be held on 1-2 November at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, will provide an excellent opportunity to explore key issues, all of which affect the provision and performance of healthcare purchasing and supply services, and, ultimately, patient care.

To register for the event, please click [here](#)

Update your diary by visiting

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/events/index.htm>

Discussion Forum

Do you have a burning issue or a hot topic that you wish to share with members? Then why not post it on the Discussion Forum in the members area of the website.

To read the current topics, or to begin your own discussions, visit the Health Care Supply Association Discussion Forum by clicking [here](#)

Health Care Supply Association www.healthcaresupply.org.uk
Members Area - Hosts Access to CPV Codes Online, Members Directory, Members Discussion Forum, World-wide Procurement Links & Contract Search Services, as well as E-tendering and Electronic Supplier List Facilities, for further information on these services please visit <http://www.bipsolutions.com/Delta/delta.html>

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