

Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin

February 2015
Edition 84

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This edition's headlines

	Page
Advice for women on the use of Valproate medicines	2
Female Genital Mutilation Prevention Programme	3
New Independent inquiry into child sexual abuse	4
Disability Matters	5
Revised Mental Health Act Code of Practice	6

Contents

[Maternity](#)
[Healthy Child Programme and Early Years](#)
[Child Health](#)
[Vulnerable Children](#)
[Ill Children and Children with Disabilities](#)
[Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing](#)
[Conferences and Events](#)
[Sources of information](#)
[Feedback and Contributions](#)

[Join the distribution list](#)

Maternity

Stronger advice for women on the use of Valproate medicines

Health professionals are alerted to strengthened warnings on the use of valproate medicines by women of child-bearing potential. Valproate has the potential to cause long term developmental problems in some children exposed to valproate in-utero.

Valproate treatment should be initiated and supervised by a specialist experienced in the management of epilepsy or bipolar disorder. Treatment should only be initiated in girls and women of childbearing potential or pregnant women if other treatments are ineffective or not tolerated. Treatment should be regularly reviewed. **No-one should stop taking valproate without discussing it first with their doctor** Information booklets for professionals and patients are available [here](#)

New guidance booklet 'Information for women and partners on planning where to give birth'

A new guidance booklet called *Information for women and partners on planning where to give birth* has been produced by King's College London. The guide provides the evidence base in an easy to understand format covering outcomes for obstetric units, alongside and freestanding midwifery units and home birth services for first baby separately to second or third baby. This is an excellent guide to help women with uncomplicated pregnancies, or those identified as low risk, make an informed choice about where to give birth.

To read the booklet in full, click [here](#).

[Back to contents](#)

Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and Early Years

Baby Friendly conference: taking neonatal care to the next level

Baby Friendly, in partnership with Bliss, the special care baby charity, will be holding its first Neonatal conference: Taking neonatal care to the next level. This one day conference will take place on Tuesday 19th May (9am-5pm), at the Royal Institution in London. Tickets are £95 per person. Please [book online](#), or fill in and return our [order form](#), along with payment, to bfi@unicef.org.uk.

This event will highlight the importance of breastfeeding for sick and vulnerable babies, and will offer insights into the great benefits of developmental care in neonatal settings. Speakers include: Nils Bergman, Shoo Lee and Paula Meier.

For further details click [here](#)

[Back to contents](#)

Child Health

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevention programme

On 6 February, the DH announced the next phase of the FGM Prevention programme. This FGM Enhanced Dataset, to be introduced in April 2015, will apply to all Acute Trusts, Mental Health Trusts and GP Practices. Key requirements will be:

- Local sharing of FGM information:
 - April 2015 - mandatory for all;
- Central return of FGM information:
 - April 2015 - expansion of existing Acute FGM Prevalence returns;
 - June 2015 – new mandatory returns for GPs and MH Trusts where FGM prevalence exists locally; and
 - October 2015 – new mandatory returns for all others.

In order to make returns, organisations including GP practices will need to register to use the Health and Social Care Information Centre's Clinical Audit Platform ([CAP](#)) by clicking [here](#). Draft dataset documentation can also be found at the same link.

Vulnerable Children

Working Together to Safeguard Children

The Department for Education consulted from 6 January to 3 February on certain revisions to the 2013 edition of the statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children*. DfE plans to publish the revised version in March, along with updated editions of the guidance for professionals on *What to do if you're worried a child is being abused* and of *Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers*.

Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework

NHS England launched a six week consultation on the draft refresh of its 2013 accountability and assurance framework for safeguarding on 12 February. The consultation closes on 26 March. To access the draft framework, a background document outlining the context and details of the consultation and governance processes, and respond to the consultation, click [here](#)

Training resource for mental health staff on routine enquiry into violence and abuse

Over half of inpatients in mental health have experienced some form of violence or abuse in their lives, which they believe to be related to their condition but is seldom acknowledged. Routine enquiry in mental health care has been a Department of Health policy since 2006.

This online training course for trainers incorporates the evidence base from DH policy research on responding to violence and abuse. Used locally, it introduces mental health practitioners to the practice of routinely and sensitively having conversations during mental health assessments about client whether clients have experienced violence or abuse at any point in their lives so that they may be provided with a trauma-focused approach to their care and supported appropriately.

For more information click [here](#)

New Independent inquiry into child sexual abuse

Announced on 4 February by the Home Secretary, a new independent inquiry into child sexual abuse will be chaired by Justice Lowell Goddard. Justice Goddard has absolute independence from the executive, a proven track record of holding state and non-state institutions to account, and forensic skills necessary to digest and analyse vast quantities of evidence. She is a judge with a longstanding commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, both in New Zealand and within the United

Nations system. A new panel will be formed and will have powers to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence by institutions and individuals.

For more information click [here](#)

Funding for victims of child and sexual abuse

The Home Office has established two new funds to support victims of child and sexual abuse across England and Wales which will be overseen by Stephen Bett, Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner:-.

- The Child Abuse Inquiry Support Fund of £2m for those organisations who have experienced an increase in demand as a direct result of the Inquiry;
- The Child and Adult Victims of Sexual Abuse Support Fund of £2.85m to help meet increased service demand.

Both funds are now open for bids, and bidding will close on 2 March 2015. All non-statutory organisations that meet the criteria for either fund are eligible to apply.

For more information click [here](#)

[Back to contents](#)

III Children and Children with Disabilities

Disability Matters

Disability Matters is an exciting new free training package for anyone who works with people with a disability (in health, social care, education and the community).

Developed by a consortium of experts led by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and including the British Academy of Childhood Disability, Contact a Family and the Council for Disabled Children, it provides e-learning resources that enable employees to reflect, challenge and positively change their own fears, ideas, attitudes and beliefs towards disability in children and adults.

Click [here](#) for further information.

Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Government response to the Health Select Committee report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

We have strongly welcomed the Health Select Committee's (HSC) investigation in children's mental health and CAMHS, responding in January with the letter (click [here](#)) published on the HSC website on 10 February. The Health Select Committee have called a debate on the government response to the CAMHS inquiry, which will be held on the 3rd March.

Updated specifications published for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): targeted and specialist tiers 2/3

A new [resource](#) with tools for commissioning effective mental health services for children and young people has been published. The Targeted and Specialist (Tier 2/3) specification for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) builds on previous sample specifications and supports commissioners of targeted and specialist services (Tiers 2 and 3). It can be adapted to cover just targeted (Tier 2) or specialist (Tier 3) services and is non-mandatory.

Developed in response to feedback from commissioners, it can be adapted for local circumstances and includes examples of best practice, evidence base information and links to current guidelines and legal requirements.

Revised Mental Health Act Code of Practice

Following the consultation that took place in summer 2014, the *revised Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice* was published in Parliament 15 January 2015. Subject to parliamentary approval, it will come into force on 1 April 15.

The chapter on children and young people has been revised and updated for greater clarification on how to support children and young people.

The revised code can be found [here](#)

New commissioning tools published for transitions from CAMHS

Two new resources to support commissioning effective, seamless transitional mental health services for young people have been published.

The new Model Specification for Transitions from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) builds on previous specifications and can be adapted locally to reflect the multi-agency nature of commissioning and delivering these services.

A sample transition discharge from and transfer of care protocol has also been developed that can be inserted into the NHS Standard contract to help improve support for young people leaving CAMHS.

Both [tools](#) are based on a range of quality standards and best practice and are non-mandatory.

[Back to contents](#)

Conferences and Events

[Back to contents](#)

Sources of Information

Unless otherwise stated, guidance referred to in the bulletin has not been commissioned or endorsed by the Department of Health - it is evidence that organisations and professionals may find helpful in improving practice. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is the Department's provider of accredited evidence and guidance, which can be found on the Institute's website at www.nice.org.uk

Department of Health Publications

As part of our commitment to reducing costs, the email address used to order Department of Health publications (dh@prolog.uk.com) is now closed.

Orders for publications can still be placed through the online shop - www.orderline.dh.gov.uk - which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or the Publications order line (0300 123 1002; Minicom 0300 123 1003), which is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. You can also check the availability of Department of Health publications, or the status of existing orders, through the online shop. If you do not have access to the Internet, then please call the publications order line.

[Back to Contents](#)

Feedback and Contributions

Do you have suggestions for improving the content of the bulletin? Please email cfmbulletincontributions@dh.gsi.gov.uk with your suggestions.

Do you have a news item or an event you wish to publicise in the next edition of the e-bulletin? If so, please send your copy to cfmbulletincontributions@dh.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm on 13 April. Your copy should be in the following format:

- 1) Title
- 2) Text up to 100 words with main message to start, followed by relevant key messages
- 3) Web link/s to relevant web page/s - **please ensure the links work**
- 4) Main contact point/source

[Back to contents](#)

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[Back to contents](#)