Welcome to the second edition of our enewsletter

This is the National Casemix Office’s bulletin which provides you with all the latest news quarterly.

Meet the Delivery team

The Delivery team are responsible for managing cross team working through the design, delivery and implementation of products and services.

What’s new

Health and Social Care Information Centre

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) is an Executive Non Departmental Public Body (ENDPB) and was established on 1 April 2013.

The new organisation brings together 2,000 experts in major ICT programme management, technology, standards, IG, data collection, statistics and analytics, and service management.

HSCIC's remit was outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Government's recent information strategy for health and care in England.

In summary the HSCIC collects, analyses and publishes national data and statistical information, and delivers national IT systems and services to support the health and care system.

How Casemix supports the Health and Social Care Act

Key Policy Areas in the Act
• Clinically led commissioning.
• Provider regulation to support innovative services.
• Greater accountability locally and nationally.

Cross-cutting Themes of the Act
• Improving quality of care.
• Promoting better integration of health and care services.
• Reconfiguration of services.

Casemix Produce and Develop Currencies that...
• are clinically endorsed by Royal Colleges.
• keep pace with clinical practice and encompass technological change.
• provide a standard norm from which to measure performance.

Cross-cutting Casemix
• Enables inferences to be drawn from data to link to outcome assessments.
• Adds value to data linkage/integration across services and between providers.
• Supports national/local data modelling using consistent metrics.
Prescribed Specialised Services 2013/14 Identification tool

From April 2013, NHS England has responsibility for directly commissioning all prescribed specialised services. The NCO, working in partnership with NHS England, was commissioned to support this process by developing bespoke software solutions which assist the identification of such activity.

The NCO released in April 2013 the PS 2013/14 Identification Tool which can be used to provide a nationally consistent application of the prescribed specialised services identification rules. This is designed to be used alongside the HRG Grouper products and is for use within the 2013/14 financial year. Further information is available here NCO – prescribed specialised services tool.

Reference Costs 2013/14 Grouper

Work continues with the planned design enhancements for the 2013/14 Reference Costs Grouper, expected to be available to the NHS in March 2014.

The main focus of changes for this Grouper are: Paediatric Medicine, Interventional Radiology, Vascular Surgery, ENT and Orthopaedics Services.

The following HFMA article link provides further details regarding planned amendments: The Plus Factor article - Healthcare Finance April 2013

Product release timetable

The timescales for 3 iterations of a Payment Grouper are outlined below:

1. Engagement Grouper scheduled for joint release with Monitor on 12th June 2013.
2. Consultation Grouper expected at the end of September 2013.
3. Local Payment Grouper for use from April 2014.

SUS PbR Release 14, for use from April 2014, is the final update of the national implementation of the PbR business rules in BT SUS prior to transfer into Care.Data hosted at the HSCIC.

The Casemix team have collated the requirements for the release and are about to enter the elaboration phase. The release includes updates to best practice, application of the prescribed services algorithm and a review of the updated “Who Pays” guide to commissioning published by the Department of Health.

Leeds Observation Wheel overlooking the historic Kirkgate market buildings

Leeds Observation Wheel overlooking the historic Kirkgate market buildings

Leeds Observation Wheel overlooking the historic Kirkgate market buildings
Engaging with the Service

Every three years we carry out a review of our clinical engagement. The term of office for our EWG Clinical Leads and Chair of Chairs came to an end on 31 March 2013.

Our Clinical Leads are nominated by Royal Colleges, Societies and Professional Bodies and represent these collectively. The Clinical Leads elect a Chair of Chairs to represent the interests of the NCO and EWG members.

We have now completed the processes of reaffirming our Clinical Leads and the election of a new Chair of Chairs.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Ken Dunn, Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon at South Manchester University Hospital, has been elected to the Chair of Chairs role with effect from 1 April 2013.

An interview with ………

This quarter’s interview is with, Ken Dunn, Chair of Chairs.

Tell us a little about yourself

I initially trained in London and was a trainee surgeon in a number of burns and plastic surgery units in England, including East Grinstead, the Accident Hospital in Birmingham and the Odstock Unit in Salisbury. I have been a Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon in Manchester, England from 1996 and am Director of the Manchester Burn Service.

I am a past Chairman of the British Burn Association, and member of the Prevention Committees of the EBA, BBA and ISBI. I am currently the Medical Director of the International Burn Injury Database and joint author of the Burn Care Standards.

How would you describe the role of the chair of chairs?

I see my role as representing as best I can the experience and skills of the expert working groups, to parties both inside and outside the NHS, so that they might understand the skills and experience available and the fundamental value of the work undertaken to health care in all its complexity.

Why were you interested in accepting this role?

I have always been drawn to the challenge of change, particularly where I see there are unrealised potentials perhaps overlooked by systems that are used to doing it the way they always have. I think coming to this role at this particular time is particularly exciting given the changing nature of the NHS and the undoubted challenges that brings along with it the potential disadvantages of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

How do you see the role evolving to the new organisational landscape?

It is essential for many new groups and bodies to understand the potential benefits that a close relationship with Casemix team and its allied expert working groups can bring to healthcare overall, and hopefully bring greater understanding and appreciation of the inestimable advantages that carefully considered and tested methods of data analysis and interpretation can bring.
International viewpoint

Patient Classification Systems International (PCSI), established in 1987, is an international organisation focusing on all aspects of casemix based classification, analysis and financing.

Virginia Jordan, Programme Head – NCO is elected to the PCSI Executive Committee and to the role of PCSI Treasurer. Paula Monteith, Principal Information Design Consultant – NCO is elected to the PCSI Scientific Committee.

The PCSI organise an annual conference and Winter and Summer School programmes, bringing participants in contact with the latest developments in patient classification systems, and facilitating discussions on the development of systems internationally. Further details are available here: PCSI

What’s next

The newly reconstituted Casemix Advisory Board (CAB) held its first meeting on 24th May in Leeds.

CAB has traditionally played a fundamental role in casemix design and implementation, allowing proposed developments to be assessed by NHS front-line personnel prior to operationalization. The extended membership of the new CAB embraces the new national organisational structure of healthcare delivery, with representatives from Clinical Commissioning Groups, Specialist healthcare providers, national financial organisations as well as policy.

Clinically-chaired, finance, informatics and NHS coding professionals provide ample – often vocal – participation, and colleagues from the Prescribed Specialised Services team at NHS England ensure that the future commissioning landscape of the NHS is amply represented.

Watch this space for future updates on the planned programme of work for the forthcoming year…

Newly opened Trinity Leeds shopping and leisure centre next to Grade 1 listed Trinity Church

My IC

Create your own information homepage on our website to get the data, tools and resources you need all in one place. For further information, latest features and how to register see: www.hscic.gov.uk/myic

Feedback

Have you found this enewsletter useful? Is there anything you’d like to see? We would like your views and thoughts. Send us your feedback

Useful links

National Casemix Office
The Health & Social Care Information Centre
Department of Health
NHS England (clinical)
NHS England (Prescribed Specialised Services)
Monitor (costing and pricing)