



NHB eNewsletter email - December



"Better, sooner and more convenient care from a unified and sustainable public health system."

From the Chair

It is two years since the inception of the National Health Board and while there is still much to do to improve the sustainability and performance of the health and disability sector I feel that we are making real progress.

The Ministerial Review Group talked about the importance of New Zealanders continuing to have affordable access to a strong public health and disability system and the National Health Board (NHB) is tasked with helping lead the sector towards that goal.



One of the more notable trends under the guidance of the NHB has been a marked and sustained improvement in the deficit track of District Health Boards (DHBs). We are expecting a net deficit of DHBs for the year ended June 2011 of \$20.1m, an improvement of \$56.4m against the planned deficit for DHBs and an improvement of \$81.8m on the previous year.

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From the Director's desk

As the dawning of 2012 draws near what can we, as a sector, expect from the next 12 months?

While the new year is traditionally a time for new hope and aspiration, as a sector we must also keep a focus on how we can continue to perform well within the confines of this increasingly challenging economic climate.

As the global economic slow down continues to impact every area of the health sector, we can expect to see the next 12 months having a much greater focus on the way we work, not just what we work on.



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Working with and not just for patients and families -

Margaret Wilsher

National Health Board Member Dr Margaret Wilsher is the Chief Medical Officer for Auckland District Health Board, and a practicing respiratory physician with a special interest in interstitial lung disease. Here she discusses the importance of working with patients and their families to achieve good health outcomes.



In the past, we have tended to regard patients and families as passive recipients of health care delivery, yet the inclusion of the patient and family voice in clinical decision-making can improve outcomes. Not only can patients and families contribute to an agreed management pathway, but their opinions can and should shape how we develop health policy and design our services and facilities.

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DHB Success Story: Elective surgery patient education programmes paying off

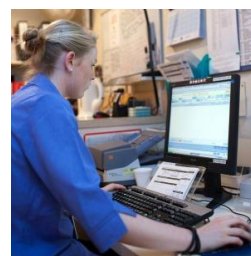
Two District Health Board (DHB) education programmes for patients undergoing knee and hip replacements are achieving the hoped for benefits of less anxious and better informed patients able to be discharged earlier from hospital.

More than 900 patients have attended Northland DHB's 'joint camp' since it began in April 2009. Patients begin the programme as soon as they're accepted by the surgeon onto the waiting list, and a series of booklets keep them informed about what to expect in the lead up to and post surgery.

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Central region patient information management system will improve care

The six Central Region DHBs have committed to invest \$38 million in a regional IT system for managing patient information which, the project's clinical leader says, will deliver tremendous advances in patient care.



Central Region Information Systems Plan (CRISP) will deliver 'one portal, one password, one patient record for every clinician at every facility across the central region'.

Approval to proceed with CRISP has been received from Capital & Coast, Hawke's Bay, Hutt Valley, MidCentral, Wairarapa and Whanganui DHBs, the National Health Board, the National Health IT Board, the Capital Investment Committee and the Minister of Health.

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Consumers playing a key role in disability services delivery

The Disability Support Services Group (within the National Health Board) has just wrapped up the

most recent Consumer Consortium gathering.

The Consumer Consortium is a group of representatives from different disability consumer groups that come together twice a year to have input into how disability support services are planned, funded and purchased.

Group Manager Disability, Anne O'Connell, says the constant theme in the work of the Disability Support Services Group is 'Nothing about us without us'.

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More integration of care a major focus for Better, Sooner, More Convenient

Further integration of primary, community and hospital-based services will be a major focus of the next phase of implementation of the Better, Sooner, More Convenient (BSMC) initiative.

BSMC is a policy the National Health Board works towards. It aims to deliver a more sustainable health system with services closer to where people live, and that are more timely, of a higher quality and affordable.

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Health Workforce New Zealand update

2011 has undoubtedly been a busy year for Health Workforce New Zealand. Work has progressed in several key areas:

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National Health IT Board update: Clinicians' Challenge winners 2011

From measles to whooping cough, disease outbreaks have hit the headlines this year.

Behind the scenes, doctors are busy reporting patients with these conditions, and the other 50 or so notifiable diseases, to public health services. If this year's winning Clinicians' Challenge vendors have their way, this reporting process will be electronic in future.

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The Green Paper

The Government is looking for feedback on the Green Paper looking at better ways to protect abused, neglected and disadvantaged children.

The Green Paper was launched by the Government in July, and sets out some ideas on how to improve the lives of vulnerable children.

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