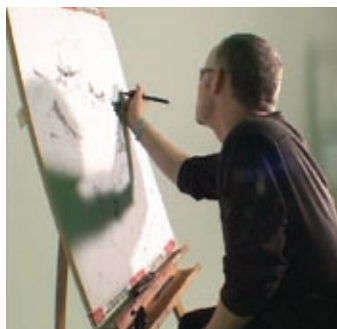




Aid workers killed in Somalia, p 299



Here's Johnny rages against MS, p 331



Woyzeck: a medical classic, p 333



The doctor who developed the Jaipur foot has died, p 334

## EDITORIALS

- 285 Sugary drinks, fruit, and increased risk of gout**  
Dietary fructose could be a contributing factor, says Martin Underwood  
» *Research p 309; Practice p 329*
- 286 Involving users in developing health services**  
Representation is not enough; voices must be translated into action, argues Gillian M Craig  
» *Research p 313*
- 287 Improving access to research data in Europe**  
The European Commission needs to promote access to the data whose collection it has financed, say Philipa Mladovsky, Elias Mossialos, Martin McKee
- 288 Strategies for prescribing statins**  
Evidence supports prescribing a standard dose without further testing or dose adjustment, say Norbert Donner-Banzhoff and Andreas Sönnichsen
- 290 Malnutrition in hospitals**  
Still common because screening tools are underused and poorly enforced, say Mike Lean and Martin Wiseman

## LETTERS

- 291 Aspirin "resistance;" Benign prostatic hyperplasia; Safety in health care; Doctors and climate change**
- 292 Condoms in preventing STIs**

## NEWS

- 293 Breaking up foundation programme for trainee doctors offers no advantages, says leading dean**  
Fight over extended hours for GPs reaches deadlock
- 294 Investigations show weak leadership and poor information put patients' safety at risk**  
England launches scheme to encourage use of "care bundles"
- 295 Three more general practices in England to be run by private company**  
Fewer than one in 10 people will die at home by 2030
- 296 Europe opts against traffic light system for food labelling**  
Trial of probiotics is to be investigated after deaths
- 297 FDA is failing to inspect drug and device makers, government reports say**  
Double dipping: new challenge to health and safety?
- 298 European agencies find 14% of flu isolates are resistant to oseltamivir**  
Doctors urged to take up challenge of climate change  
Germans urged to have flu vaccination as unused doses fill the pharmacy shelves
- 299 Killings prompt charity to withdraw from Somalia**

## SHORT CUTS

- 300 What's new in the other general journals**

## FEATURE

- 302 Does cot death still exist?**  
With leading researchers saying smoking and other modifiable factors account for most sudden infant deaths, Jonathan Gornall asks whether it is time to put the diagnosis to bed

## OBSERVATIONS

### YANKEE DOODLING

- 305 What the US candidates fail to mention**  
Douglas Kamerow

## ANALYSIS

- 306 Payment for performance in health care**  
Debates about performance related pay seem to have moved on from whether it is desirable to how to make it work. But Russell Mannion and Huw Davies caution that we still don't know enough about the potential problems

## RESEARCH, CLINICAL REVIEW, AND PRACTICE

See next page

## VIEWS AND REVIEWS

### PERSONAL VIEW

- 330 We need better data on smoking in pregnancy**  
Carmel O'Gorman

### REVIEW OF THE WEEK

- 331 Here's Johnny**  
Colin Martin

### COLUMNISTS

- 332 The perils of commissioning bias** Des Spence  
**The errors in our ways** Mary E Black
- 333 Never mind the quality** Theodore Dalrymple

### MEDICAL CLASSICS

- 333 Woyzeck** Iain McClure

## OBITUARIES

- 334 Pramod Karan Sethi; Walter Edward Spencer Bain; Alan Lyell; James Graham Mann; George Inglis Manson; Thomas Ernest Oppe; Campbell Grieve Stalker; John Oscar Reginald Stewart**

## MINERVA

- 336 Big breasts predict diabetes, and other stories**

## FILLERS

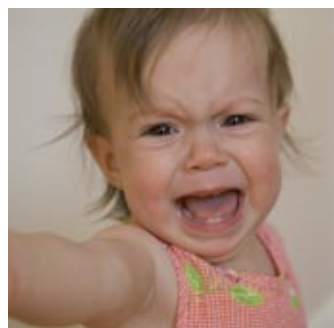
- 312 Call for papers: sport and exercise medicine**
- 321 For sale: estate car**
- 325 "BITS?"**

Double dipping and bacteria transfer, p 297

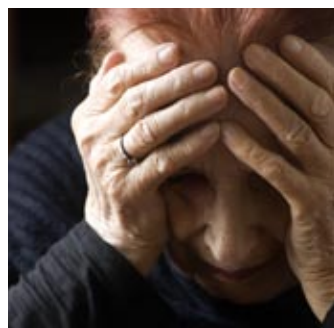




Soft drinks, fruit, and risk of gout, p 309



Universal parenting programme, p 318



Assessing mental capacity, p 322



Management of recurrent gout, p 329

## RESEARCH

### 309 Soft drinks, fructose consumption, and the risk of gout in men: prospective cohort study

Prospective data suggest that consumption of sugar sweetened soft drinks and fructose is associated with an increased risk of gout in men

Hyon K Choi, Gary Curhan

» *Editorial* p 285; *Practice* p 329

### 313 Assessing the promise of user involvement in health service development: ethnographic study

Professionals determine service users' involvement in service development, which may limit achievable change

Nina Fudge, Charles D A Wolfe, Christopher McKeivitt

» *Editorial* p 286

### 318 Universal parenting programme to prevent early childhood behavioural problems: cluster randomised trial

Outcomes at age 2 are insufficient to support widespread introduction of a universal programme to prevent behavioural problems in toddlers

Harriet Hiscock, Jordana K Bayer, Anna Price, Obioha C Ukoumunne, Susan Rogers, Melissa Wake

## CLINICAL REVIEW

### 322 Assessing mental capacity: the Mental Capacity Act

Assessing mental capacity is an important part of a clinician's role, and the recent Mental Capacity Act can help doctors when making such decisions

Timothy R J Nicholson, William Cutter, Matthew Hotopf

## PRACTICE

### 326 The competent novice: dealing with complaints

This article explores why patients complain and outlines some strategies for reducing the rising number of complaints and for dealing appropriately with any that do occur

Judith Cave, Jane Dacre

### 329 10-minute consultation: Management of recurrent gout

This is part of a series of occasional articles on common problems in primary care

Robin Fox

## RESEARCH PUBLISHED AHEAD OF PRINT

### Familial risk of oral clefts by morphological type and severity: population based cohort study of first degree relatives

BMJ, doi:10.1136/bmj.39458.563611.AE

Åse Sivertsen, Allen J Wilcox, Rolv Skjærven, Hallvard Andreas Vindenes, Frank Åbyholm, Emily Harville, Rolv Terje Lie

### Long term efficacy of DOTS regimens for tuberculosis: systematic review

BMJ, doi:10.1136/bmj.39463.640787.BE

Helen S Cox, Martha Morrow, Peter W Deutschmann

### Effect of training and lifting equipment for preventing back pain in lifting and handling: systematic review

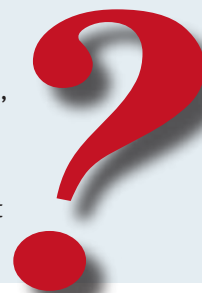
BMJ, doi:10.1136/bmj.39463.418380.BE

Kari-Pekka Martimo, Jos Verbeek, Jaro Karppinen, Andrea D Furlan, Esa-Pekka Takala, P Paul F M Kuijer, Merja Jauhiainen, Eira Viikari-Juntura

## HOLD THE BACK PAGE!

As you may have noticed, we recently combined the *BMJ* and *BMJ Careers* within one set of covers. This has presented some practical problems, one being the splitting up of the obituary pages. We intend to move the obituaries farther forward so the short and long obituaries are together again and, by doing this, we will gain a page for editorial content at the back of *Minerva*.

We want this to be a fun, interactive medical education page. We are exploring various options, including a regular statistics question, a picture quiz with radiological and clinical images, a short interactive case report, and medical sudoku. If you would like to comment on these suggestions or have any of your own, please contact Amy Davis (adavis@bmj.com).



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IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST © DANIEL BAKER

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

*The Patient meets the Flock of Bloodied Aprons*, meticulously constructed in paper by Daniel Baker, the artist in residence at The Old Operating Theatre, Museum, and Herb Garret, in London SE1. His project, *The Little Theatre of Disease and Desire*, centres on a contemporary paper theatre, which he has used to perform a play in which *The Patient* and other characters, such as *The Tiny Surgeon* and *The Two Headed Leech*, attempt to uncover the nature of the disease that afflicts *The Patient*. The project is on show throughout the museum until 24 February (see [www.papertheatres.blogspot.com](http://www.papertheatres.blogspot.com) and [www.thegarret.org.uk](http://www.thegarret.org.uk)).

## THE WEEK IN NUMBERS

**1.85** Risk of gout in men who drink two or more sugared soft drinks a day compared with less than once a month (Research p 309)

**30%** Proportion of patients on acute medical wards who may lack mental capacity (Clinical Review p 322)

**7%** Patients who complain who want financial compensation (Practice p 326)

**85%** Rise in malnutrition over the past decade in patients who leave English NHS hospitals (Editorial p 290)

**30 minutes** Extra opening of practices for every 1000 registered patients, in Alan Johnson's deal to GPs (News p 293)

## THE WEEK IN QUOTES

“Historically we have thrown all . . . infant deaths into one category and called them **SIDS**” (Feature p 302)

“Healthcare professionals and service users understand and practise user involvement . . . according to individual ideologies, circumstances, and needs” (Research p 313)

“Did you just double dip that chip? That's like putting your whole mouth right in the dip” (News p 297)

“Most young people have sex for the same reason most old people do: because it's lots of fun” (Letter p 292)

“Multiple sclerosis has grounded me—properly . . . I'm no longer an egocentric yob” (Review of the Week p 331)



## EDITOR'S CHOICE

## The value of complaints



COVER IMAGE: NEW COLLEGE OXFORD/BAL

## ON THE COVER

Gout: the role of sugary drinks

**Editorial, p 285;**

**Research, p 309**

Cover image is *The Gout* by James Gilray published by Hannah Humphrey, 1799. Courtesy of the warden and scholars of New College, Oxford

## THE BMJ DEBATE:

## BMA AND REMEDY UK

Deborah Cohen interviews Ram Moorthy, chair of the BMA Junior Doctors' Committee, and Matt Jameson Evans, spokesman for Remedy UK, about the future of medical training in the United Kingdom. To read a shortened version of the interview go to: [careers.bmj.com](http://careers.bmj.com).

To hear the podcast go to [www.bmj.com/audio/](http://www.bmj.com/audio/)

Articles appearing in this print journal are likely to have been shortened.

To see the full version of articles go to [bmj.com](http://bmj.com). [bmj.com](http://bmj.com) also contains material that is supplementary to articles: this will be indicated in the text (references will be given as w1, w2, etc) of the article and be labelled as **extra** on [bmj.com](http://bmj.com).

Junior doctors are our future medical colleagues and will be our lifeline when we and our families need medical care. We must value and support them. This week we launch a new series for "the competent novice." Written by some of medicine's best educators, it gives practical advice on how to master key aspects of being a doctor. It will cover lifelong learning, dealing with stress, confidentiality, time management, decision making, managing the "take," discharge planning, and the interface with other health professionals.

One thing all doctors need to master is how to handle complaints from patients. In the first article Judith Cave and Jane Dacre outline strategies for reducing the likelihood of complaints and dealing with those that do occur (p 326). Most patients complain, not for financial compensation, but so that others won't go through what they have had to. Learning how to apologise when something goes wrong is a crucial skill. As Emma Cuzner of the Medical Defence Union writes in a letter this week (p 291), saying sorry is not an admission of liability, and it may be all the patient wants.

Editors also have to know how to say sorry, and readers and contributors should know how to complain if they wish to. The *BMJ*'s formal complaints procedure has been running for two years, and details of it are available online (<http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/about-bmj/bmj-complaints-procedure>). We welcome complaints as they provide a spur for improvement, and we aim to respond quickly, courteously, and constructively. In case a complainant isn't satisfied with our

response, we list the other avenues he or she can pursue, including contacting the Committee on Publication Ethics and the Press Complaints Commission.

The appearance of short obituaries after *BMJ Careers* has prompted a recent flurry of complaints. (We've had no complaints about this from our international and retired readers as their journals don't carry *BMJ Careers*, nor from users of [bmj.com](http://bmj.com), for whom the print journal is no doubt an arcane irrelevance.) Making any change to the obituaries in the *BMJ* is one of the best ways to ensure we hear from readers, and this time has been no exception. You will, however, be pleased to know that we have listened and that we have a plan. We will reunite the two obituaries pages and move them further forward so they sit after Practice and before Views and Reviews.

We'll do this as soon as we've developed new content for the page backing on to Minerva. Our plan is to make this a fun, interactive medical education page for doctors of all ages, though we hope it will particularly appeal to junior doctors. Various options include a regular statistics question, a picture quiz with radiological and clinical images, a short interactive case report, and medical sudoku. If you have ideas for the page, please send them to our junior doctor editor, Amy Davis ([adavis@bmj.com](mailto:adavis@bmj.com)).

**Fiona Godlee, editor, *BMJ*** [fgodlee@bmj.com](mailto:fgodlee@bmj.com)

To receive Editor's choice by email each week, visit [bmj.com/cgi/customalert](http://bmj.com/cgi/customalert)

## WHAT'S NEW AT THE BMJ GROUP

**Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin (DTB)—February issue**

Reviews on grazax for hay fever, treating depression in alcohol misuse, and lidocaine plasters for post-herpetic neuralgia. [dtb.bmj.com](http://dtb.bmj.com)

**International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care**

**22-25 April 2008** New website now live. Check out the programme highlights and confirmed speakers [internationalforum.bmj.com](http://internationalforum.bmj.com)

**BMJ Masterclass for GPs: Paediatrics and Women's Health**

Monday 10 March—RCP, London. Early bird offer closing soon—save up to £35 Register now at [masterclasses.bmj.com/GPs/paediatrics-womens-health](http://masterclasses.bmj.com/GPs/paediatrics-womens-health)

**Gout review from *BMJ Clinical Evidence*** Covers treatments for both acute gout and prevention in people with prior acute episodes [clinicalevidence.bmj.com](http://clinicalevidence.bmj.com)

**What's in February's Student BMJ?**

*Student BMJ* is a monthly journal for medical students written by medical students. Here are just some of the articles you will find in the February issue

- Can we trust medical training?
- Better treatment with care bundles
- Menstrual migraine
- Acute limb ischaemia

To find out more about *Student BMJ* email [studenteditor@bmj.com](mailto:studenteditor@bmj.com)



## PLUS

Career Focus, jobs, and courses appear after p 334.

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