



# Quality and Safety Bulletin

Issue 108: 21 March 2019

## Welcome to the Quality and Safety eBulletin

This eBulletin brings you the latest news from key national agencies and initiatives across the UK, under themed headings.

We welcome your feedback on the eBulletin. Please contact us at: [qualityandsafety@rcn.org.uk](mailto:qualityandsafety@rcn.org.uk)

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## All the latest in quality and safety with the RCN's Quality and Safety Bulletin.

### News story



#### New Women's Health pocket guide

A new handy pocket guide for women's health has been published. Part three covers multiple women's health topics including fertility, polycystic ovarian syndrome, pelvic organ prolapse and gestational trophoblastic disease.

View the [pocket guide](#).

### RCN highlights

**Spring statement:** Government misses opportunity to address nursing workforce crisis. No new money is announced for nursing higher education following fall in applicants in England. Chancellor Philip Hammond has missed another opportunity to give nursing education and the nursing workforce the money it needs. His spring statement contained no new funds to replace nursing bursaries or confirm the amount of funding available for the NHS workforce plan. Instead, the Government will wait for the results of a spending review, delaying any funding guarantees until later this year.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/spring-statement-government-misses-opportunity-to-address-nursing-workforce-crisis>

More staff needed to meet proposed new NHS targets. The RCN has responded to news that changes to clinical standards will be tested in England. More staff are needed to meet new, more stringent standards for the NHS in England, the RCN has said. The comments were made in response to news that a number of existing targets will be reformed. Acting RCN Chief Executive Dame Donna Kinnair said the RCN backs the approach of treating the sickest patients fastest. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/more-staff-needed-to-meet-proposed-new-nhs-targets>

Reps gather to shape key RCN work. Safe staffing, NHS pay and member engagement are among the many issues on the agenda at the two-day conference in Leeds. Trade union reps from across the UK have come together to shape how the RCN campaigns on key issues affecting nursing staff. They've been discussing how best to connect with members on important workplace concerns such as severe short staffing and fair pay. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/ reps-gather-to-shape-key-rcn-work>

Nursing shortages 'single biggest challenge' facing the NHS. Interim workforce plan looks at ways to boost nurse numbers but RCN insists more money is needed to tackle severe lack of staff. A recruitment campaign targeting school leavers and 5,000 extra clinical placements for student nurses are among solutions being considered to tackle the nursing workforce crisis in England. In a letter to NHS chief execs, the people developing the Workforce Implementation Plan describe staff shortages in nursing and midwifery as "the biggest single challenge we currently face". <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/nursing-shortages-single-biggest-challenge-facing-the-nhs>

Salary exemption for international nurses extended. The Home Office has confirmed it will extend the minimum salary exemption for internationally recruited nurses until January 2021. Under the Tier 2 visa, people are ordinarily required to meet the minimum income requirement of £30,000 a year. The exemption means nurses only need meet the lower rate of £20,800. The announcement comes after a report from NHS Improvement reveals there are 3,000 more nurse vacancies in the NHS compared with this time last year. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/salary-exemption-for-international-nurses-extended>

Jersey members balloted on new pay offer. Following weeks of mediation, nurses and midwives on Jersey have received a new offer. The new pay offer is the result of mediation by Jersey Advisory and Conciliation Service (JACS) with the States of Jersey government. Mediation began after members in Jersey rejected a "final" pay offer from the States in January. Following the rejection of the offer, RCN Council agreed that members on Jersey could be balloted on taking strike action over pay should the mediation not result in an improved pay offer. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/jersey-members-balloted-on-new-pay-offer>

Women's Health Cards Part 3. Part three of these handy pocket guides covers multiple women's health topics including fertility, Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS), pelvic organ prolapse and Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD). Supported by Association of Early Pregnancy Units, The Ectopic Pregnancy Trust, Verity The Polycystic Ovaries Self Help Group and The Vulval Pain Society. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/007-293>

Brexit: RCN priorities overview. Shortly after the 2016 referendum on membership of the EU the RCN highlighted the five key priorities to ensure that Brexit worked for nursing and did not negatively impact on health services in the UK. This overview outlines the issues. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pdf-006981>

Caring for you while you're caring for others. This leaflet gives information about the services offered by RCN Member Support Services, including career advice, telephone counselling and immigration advice. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/006-822>

Catheter Care. Publication aiming to encourage widespread adoption of the National Occupational Standards across all NHS and independent health care sectors, by enabling a full understanding of

the standards and providing quality care for patients. This publication is supported by B. Braun, BD Medical, Coloplast and Wellspect.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/007-313>

RCN Magazines. Latest news includes: Spring statement: Government misses opportunity to address nursing workforce crisis; More staff needed to meet proposed new NHS targets; Nursing shortages 'single biggest challenge' facing the NHS.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines>

RCN Blogs. Latest blogs include: Nursing Now England needs ambassadors like you; Newly qualified nurses must follow the career path best for them; The RCN's first live-streamed Council meeting.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/blogs>

## Events

Practice Based Learning workshops. Free RCN workshops. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is introducing new standards for education and training. This sets out the skills and knowledge that the next generation of nurses will need to deliver safe care. We want to ensure that all nursing staff understand the new standards, changes to practice-based learning and what is expected of them. You can find out more by attending one of our free workshops, taking place across the United Kingdom from January to March 2019.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/practice-based-learning>

RCN Library exhibition. The Wandering Womb: Women's health nursing past and present. Women have long been viewed as at the mercy of their biology. How has nursing as a profession challenged the myths and misconceptions around women's health? This exhibition explores themes including menstruation, miscarriage, menopause and gynaecological cancers.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/new-exhibition-highlights-the-history-of-womens-health>

RCN Looked after children's nurses conference. 29 Apr 2019 09:00 - 16:30, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. "As well as being able to network and find out the latest health news in this field, this event provides an opportunity to discuss professional issues affecting LAC Nurses and teams across the UK. By working with attendees we will have an opportunity to influence change" - Karen Hughes, Chair of the RCN LAC Community.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/lac-2019>

Are you Glove aware? 02 May 2019 11:00 - 16:30. Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. As part of the Royal College of Nursing's Glove Awareness Week we are hosting a one-day event to challenge, celebrate and debate the use of gloves as part of the delivery of health and care in all settings. The conference is open to anyone with an interest in gloves or glove use. It is relevant to all care settings and NHS and Independent care providers.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/glove-awareness>

RCN School Nurses Conference & Exhibition 2019. 21 Aug 2019 08:45 - 16:15, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. The programme will include keynote sessions covering a broad range of contemporary topics alongside interactive workshop sessions, focusing on common issues you come across as a school nurse in practice, that allow you to tailor your conference experience to your learning needs.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/school-nurses-2019>

The RCN International Nursing Research Conference 2019. 3 September 2019, 9am to 5pm, City Campus, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield, S1 1WB. Save the date and attend the RCN International Research Conference 2019. Sheffield Hallam University will be home to this prestigious three-day event which will once again welcome hundreds of nurses and researchers from around the world to present, debate and hear about advances in nursing research and its impact on health, health and social care and nursing practice.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/research-2019>

## Quality improvement

### Audit, reviews, legislation, inspections, regulation

Care Quality Commission. Monitoring the Mental Health Act in 2017/18. The Care Quality Commission's annual report on the use of the Mental Health Act (MHA) looks at how providers are caring for patients, and whether patients' rights are being protected. The CQC has seen some improvement in the quality of care planning for patients who are subject to the MHA but continues to be concerned about the quality and safety of mental health wards.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/cqc-finds-improvements-use-mental-health-act-remains-concerned-about-safety>

Department of Health and Social Care. The UK strategy for rare diseases: 2019 update to the implementation plan for England. This update on the strategy's progress covers five main areas: empowering those affected by rare diseases; identifying and preventing rare diseases; diagnosis and early intervention; co-ordination of care; and the role of research. It also sets out the actions that the Department of Health and Social Care and partner organisations will take over the next year to implement the commitments of the strategy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-strategy-for-rare-diseases-2019-update-to-the-implementation-plan-for-england>

Department of Health and Social Care. Consultation response: The National Health Service Pension Scheme, Additional Voluntary Contributions and Injury Benefits (Amendment) Regulations 2019. The original consultation ran from 18 December 2018 to 28 January 2019, and proposals included changes to contribution rates, providing civil partners and same-sex spouses with the same survivor pension rights as widows, and extending the current forfeiture of pension benefits rules. The government received almost 1,500 responses to the consultation. This report summarises the consultation findings and the government's response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nhs-pension-scheme-proposed-changes-to-scheme-regulations-2019>

NHS England. Clinically-led review of NHS access standards: interim report. In 2018 Professor Stephen Powis, NHS National Medical Director, was asked to carry out a clinical review of standards across the NHS, with the aim of determining whether patients would be well served by updating and supplementing some of the older targets currently in use. In this interim report, Professor Powis sets out his recommendations for doing so.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/clinically-led-review-nhs-access-standards/>

### Guidance, innovation, tools

BBC News. UK patient 'free' of HIV after stem cell treatment. A UK patient's HIV has become "undetectable" following a stem cell transplant. The London patient, who was being treated for cancer, has now been in remission from HIV for 18 months and is no longer taking HIV drugs. The researchers say it's too early to say the patient is "cured" of HIV.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47421855>

Digital Health. Digital Health Rewired Pitchfest start-up short-list announced. The 16 start-ups that have made the short-list of the Digital Health Rewired Pitchfest have been revealed. Jon Hoeksma, editor of Digital Health, said: "We've had a fantastic range of start-ups enter the first Rewired Pitchfest and the last 16 showcase the amazing array of talent and innovation in the sector. The Pitchfest promises to be one of the highlights of Rewired.

<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/03/digital-health-rewired-pitchfest-short-list-announced/>

Digital Health Age. Q&A: How Trustech works with the NHS; plus trends in healthcare innovation. Raj Purewal, business development and partnerships director at Trustech who allow companies to develop products used in the NHS, explains its commitment to driving improvements to UK health and social care through innovation, and how it helps healthtech SMEs break into the NHS.

<http://digitalhealthage.com/q-plus-trends-in-healthcare-innovation/>

NHS Improvement and NHS England. Urinary catheter tools. NHS Improvement and NHS England have worked together to produce a suite of resources to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) - a known source of E coli blood stream infections. Resources include a National Catheter Passport, a National Inpatient Care Plan, a Patient held card and staff promotional tools. This is a key target in the new five-year action plan on antimicrobial resistance, and an important step towards improved patient care.

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/urinary-catheter-tools/>

VRFocus. VR Training Company Virti Joins NHS Innovation Accelerator Programme. Virti, a healthcare training company which specialised in the use of both augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technology, has announced that it's been selected to join the UK's NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA) programme. Since launching 12 months ago Virti has gained a large number of enterprise customers in the UK and US, and in the process won a number of high profile awards including the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Triennial Innovation Prize

<https://www.vrfocus.com/2019/03/vr-training-company-virti-joins-nhs-innovation-accelerator-programme>

### Reports, commentary, statistics

Age UK. Breaking point: the social care burden on women. This report sets out the challenges facing many women who are carers. The report [change to 'it'] shows how women are going above and beyond what should reasonably be expected to care for loved ones because they are unable to find good, reliable social care support.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-press/articles/2019/march/women-are-bearing-the-brunt-of-the-governments-inaction-on-social-care/>

Asthma UK. Paying to breathe: why unfair asthma prescription charges must be stopped. Asthma UK has conducted the largest-ever survey carried out on prescription charges, engaging over 9,000 people. The results reveal many people with asthma are cutting back on their medication for financial reasons, with a dramatic impact on their health. In light of this evidence, Asthma UK is campaigning to stop asthma prescription charges.

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/about/media/news/unfair-prescription-charges-putting-more-than-a-million-people-at-risk-of-a-life-threatening-asthma-attack/>

Care Quality Commission. The state of care in independent ambulance services: findings from CQC's programme of comprehensive inspections in England. The report notes how interest is shifting from supporting the improvement of individual services to improving how different services work together in local systems. It highlights the role the PSC programme has had in creating a movement for change and cultivating a shared vision among health and care organisations.

<https://www.ahsnetwork.com/kings-fund-report-pscs/>

Children's Rights Alliance for England. State of Children's Rights 2018. This report finds national and local governments in the UK are failing to protect children in England whilst focusing on Brexit. Brexit has continued to dominate the political debate, making it difficult to secure attention for issues affecting children.

<http://www.crae.org.uk/publications-resources/state-of-childrens-rights-2018/>

Guardian. Pilot scheme moves NHS closer to ending four-hour A&E target. NHS England has moved a step closer to scrapping the four-hour A&E waiting time target, and has announced that it is to trial a new set of standards. Under a pilot scheme at small number of hospitals, the length of time every patient spends in A&E will be recorded, yielding an average waiting time, as has been introduced for ambulance waiting times.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/11/pilot-scheme-moves-nhs-closer-to-ending-four-hour-ae-target>

Health Education England. Maximising the potential: essential measures to support SAS doctors. This report outlines measures to support Specialty and Associate Specialist (SAS) doctors and sets out how Health Education England, NHS Improvement, NHS Employers and other partners will work together to support and develop SAS doctors. The guidance describes measures including effective

induction and appraisal to support and develop their careers and use their skills in ways that realise their full potential.

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/news-blogs-events/news/improved-support-sas-doctors-1>

Health Consumer Powerhouse. Euro health consumer index 2018. This annual index assesses the performance of national health care systems in 35 countries. It analyses national health care on 46 indicators, looking into areas such as patient rights and information, access to care, treatment outcomes, range and reach of services, prevention, and use of pharmaceuticals.

<https://healthpowerhouse.com/publications>

Health Foundation. Failing to capitalise: capital spending in the NHS. This briefing concludes that a short-termist approach has resulted in years of declining and inadequate capital spending for the NHS in England, risking patient care and staff productivity. It also warns that an ageing infrastructure, together with a substantial and growing repairs backlog, is likely to undermine ambitions to transform the health service, including plans to improve cancer survival and make the NHS a world leader in technology-driven care.

<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/lack-of-investment-in-nhs-infrastructure-is-undermining-patient-care>

Independent Age. Care home performance across England. This briefing assesses the state of care home performance across England and looks at what is being done to tackle poor performance. The report uses publicly available inspection data from the Care Quality Commission to work out a total figure for the percentage of care homes in each local authority that are rated either 'Inadequate' or 'Requires Improvement'.

<https://www.independentage.org/care-home-performance-across-england-2019>

International Longevity Centre UK. Exploring dementia and agitation: how public policy needs to respond. With 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, there is a significant need to understand how to improve the quality of life for them and their carers. This report summarises a number of key findings from the MARQUE (Managing Agitation and Raising Quality of Life in Dementia) project, led by Professor Gill Livingston from UCL. MARQUE is the largest-ever study involving people living in care homes.

<https://ilcuk.org.uk/exploring-dementia-and-agitation-how-public-policy-needs-to-respond/>

Neurological Alliance. Neuro numbers 2019. This report shows that the number of neurological cases has now reached at least 14.7 million in England. This equates to more than one in six people living with one or more neurological conditions. The report also highlights that the prevalence of neurological conditions will continue to increase due to an ageing population, improvements in diagnosis and advances in neonatal care.

<https://www.neural.org.uk/news-new-report-from-the-neurological-alliance-shows-neurological-prevalence-is-rising/>

NHS England. Clinically-led review of NHS access standards: interim report from the NHS National Medical Director. In 2018 Professor Stephen Powis, NHS National Medical Director, was asked to carry out a clinical review of standards across the NHS, with the aim of determining whether patients would be well served by updating and supplementing some of the older targets currently in use. In this interim report, Professor Powis sets out his recommendations for doing so.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/clinically-led-review-nhs-access-standards>

NHS Providers. Mental health services: addressing the care deficit. This report reveals deep disquiet among NHS mental health trust leaders about a substantial care deficit resulting from the impact of growing social and economic hardship in their communities. It looks at the levels of demand reported by frontline leaders across the range of services they provide, and examines what lies behind the growing pressures. In particular, the report identifies widespread concerns about benefits cuts and the impact of universal credit.

<https://nhsproviders.org/news-blogs/news/benefit-changes-and-loneliness-behind-the-growing-deficit-of-mental-health-care>

NHS Public Health Wales & Bangor University. Stay Well in Wales Super Profiles: Who thinks what about the nation's health. Using a household and online survey, the views of 3,310 individuals in

Wales (aged 16+ years) on 19 public health statements were gathered. Eight demographic and five health-related behaviour super profiles were created to explore differences in opinions across population groups.

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/Stay%20Well%20in%20Wales%20report%20Eng%5B2%5D.pdf>

Public Accounts Committee. Clinical commissioning groups. This report looks at changes to the structure of NHS commissioning organisations. It describes how the NHS long-term plan sets out the intention for integrated care systems to cover the whole of England by 2021, resulting in a reduction in the number of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). The report concludes that getting the commissioning structures right will be an important part of delivering the NHS long-term plan.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/news-parliament-2017/report-published-clinical-commissioning-groups-17-19/>

Royal College of Midwives. New guidance launched to help homeless pregnant women. Aimed at midwives and maternity support workers (MSW) and using real life scenarios, the guidance will help them spot the signs of homelessness, or those at risk of it. It also gives information about how to refer women, with their consent, to housing services that can help them. Pregnant women are among those considered a priority for housing.

<https://www.rcm.org.uk/news-views-and-analysis/news/new-guidance-launched-to-help-homeless-pregnant-women>

## Patient safety

AHSN Network. Improving patient safety through collaboration: a rapid review of the academic health science networks' patient safety collaboratives. This report discusses the progress and impact made by England's Patient Safety Collaboratives (PSCs) in their first four years. The report notes how interest is shifting from supporting the improvement of individual services to improving how different services work together in local systems.

<https://www.ahsnnetwork.com/kings-fund-report-pscs/>

BBC News. Cancer waiting times breached for 1,000 days in England. The NHS in England has now missed its flagship cancer target for more than 1,000 days with one in four patients facing delays getting treatment. Hospitals are meant to start treatment within 62 days of a GP referral - and have been set a target of achieving that for 85% of patients. But latest figures, for January, showed 76.2% were seen on time - the worst performance since records began.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47528886>

BMJ. Ian Leistikow: We can improve patient safety by adopting a growth mindset. At the international roundtable BMJ hosted in Riyadh in April 2018, I was privileged to discuss current and coming patient safety issues with healthcare improvement leaders from around the world. Despite the differences in our healthcare systems, we all recognized the importance of an open culture and collaboration for patient safety improvement. But how can we be open and truly collaborative if we feel uncomfortable in speaking up to each other?

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2019/02/28/ian-leistikow-patient-safety-and-the-fixed-or-growth-mindset/>

Care Quality Improvement. Signs of improvement but concerns remain about the safety and quality of independent ambulance services. This report calls on independent ambulance services, commissioners and the wider system to do more to make sure patients are safe, following concerns identified during CQC inspections. The CQC found evidence of good practice and improvements made by some individual services, but concerns remain about how safely and effectively independent ambulance providers are caring for people using their services.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/signs-improvement-concerns-remain-about-safety-quality-independent-ambulance-services>

Children's Commissioner. Keeping kids safe. This report investigates what it means to be a child gang member in England. It estimates how many children in England are in gangs, and looks at the risks factors which make it more likely for a child to end up being groomed for gang membership. Finally, it questions whether those responsible for safeguarding children are responding adequately to the rise in gang violence and how children can better be kept safe.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/guide-to-keeping-children-safe/>

Guardian. Halt privatisation of cancer screening or risk patient harm, MPs tell NHS England Doctors say awarding PET-CT contracts to private firms 'will undoubtedly cause clinical harm'. Government and opposition MPs are urging NHS bosses to halt the privatisation of cancer screening services in Oxford, which doctors are warning will damage patients' health.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/13/halt-privatisation-of-cancer-screening-or-risk-patient-harm-mps-tell-nhs-england>

Guardian. Hospitals could face financial penalties if they fail to meet new guidelines for detecting and treating sepsis. The guidance, mandated by NHS England, includes a requirement for staff to alert senior doctors if patients suspected of having the deadly condition do not respond to treatment within one hour. All NHS trusts in England will be contractually obliged to fully comply with the advice from April, in an effort to improve accountability.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/11/patients-unresponsive-to-sepsis-treatment-to-be-flagged-to-doctors-under-new-nhs-england-rules>

ITV News. Hospital Debate: Patient safety a 'challenge'. The Managing Director of Jersey's General Hospital says patient safety is a 'challenge'. Rob Sainsbury said the 'exceptional staff' work hard every day to ensure the environment and patient safety is maintained, but daily challenges make this difficult.

<https://www.itv.com/news/channel/update/2019-02-19/hospital-debate-patient-safety-a-challenge/>

King's Fund. Quality improvement for patient safety: a chance to steady the ship? Does the recommissioning of the Academic Health Science Networks' patient safety collaboratives mark a renewed commitment to quality improvement in the NHS? Ben Collins considers the relationship the NHS has with quality improvement and the challenges it faces in bringing about real improvements in care.

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2019/03/quality-improvement-patient-safety>

Public Health England. PHE launches 'Cervical Screening Saves Lives' campaign. Public Health England (PHE) has launched the major new national campaign to increase the number of women attending their cervical screening across England. The campaign will encourage women to respond to their cervical screening invitation letter, and if they missed their last screening, to book an appointment at their GP practice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-launches-cervical-screening-saves-lives-campaign>

Scotsman. Scotland's biggest hospital needs more staff to meet hygiene standards. The under-fire Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow is not in need of £50m repairs but more staff are needed to meet hygiene standards, Scotland's health secretary Jeane Freeman said in Holyrood today.

Answering questions from MSPs about reports that a catalogue of problems at the flagship hospital would cost millions to resolve, Ms Freeman said that was "inaccurate" although there were older buildings on the same site which required upgrading.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-s-biggest-hospital-needs-more-staff-to-meet-hygiene-standards-1-4887999>

## Evidence-based practice

NHS England. Flash Glucose Monitoring: National arrangements for funding of relevant diabetes patients. This guidance document sets out the criteria for flash glucose monitoring and the maximum amounts CCGs will be reimbursed for the ongoing costs of flash glucose sensors.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/flash-glucose-monitoring-national-arrangements-for-funding-of-relevant-diabetes-patients/>

NHS Choices. Online tool helps men choose best prostate cancer treatment. UK researchers have developed a tool to estimate a man's chances of surviving 15 years after a prostate cancer diagnosis, based on age, cancer type and other health problems. The tool can show the potential effects of treatments such as surgery or radiotherapy, compared with "wait and see" approaches. The tool is specifically for use in men with prostate cancer that's localised and not spread outside of the prostate gland.

<https://www.nhs.uk/news/cancer/online-tool-helps-men-choose-best-prostate-cancer-treatment/>

NHS Choices. 'No link between MMR and autism,' major study finds. A major study conducted by researchers from Statens Serum Institut and the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, and Stanford University School of Medicine in the US, has confirmed yet again that there's no link between autism and the MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella. In this latest study, researchers followed up 650,000 Danish children until they were on average 8 years old. Researchers found around 1% of them developed autism.

<https://www.nhs.uk/news/medication/no-link-between-mmr-and-autism-major-study-finds/>

NICE guideline. Intrapartum care for women with existing medical conditions or obstetric complications and their babies. This guideline covers care during labour and birth for women who need extra support because they have a medical condition or complications in their current or previous pregnancy. The guideline also covers women who have had no antenatal care. It aims to improve experiences and outcomes for women and their babies.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng121>

NICE. Thousands set to benefit from blood pressure treatment under new NICE guidance. NICE has published its draft updated guideline on the diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure (hypertension) for public consultation. The draft guideline recommends that blood pressure lowering drugs should be offered to people aged under 80 with a diagnosis of stage 1 hypertension who have a 10% or greater risk of developing cardiovascular disease within the next 10 years.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/thousands-set-to-benefit-from-blood-pressure-treatment-under-new-nice-guidance>

NICE. 890 more children and adults eligible for cochlear implants. Hundreds more people with severe to profound deafness will be eligible for cochlear implants each year. The update comes after a review of the definition of severe to profound deafness which is used to identify if a cochlear implant might be appropriate.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/hundreds-more-children-and-adults-eligible-for-cochlear-implants-on-the-nhs>

NIHR Signal. Antimicrobial stewardship programmes reduce antibiotic use in long-term care homes. Antimicrobial stewardship programmes have been found to reduce antibiotic use in long-term care residences by 14% when pooling evidence across a range of study types and interventions. Antimicrobial resistance is a public health threat, and overuse of antimicrobials is one of the main causes.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000746/antimicrobial-stewardship-programmes-reduce-antibiotic-use-in-long-term-care-homes>

NIHR Signal. Brain scan may predict long-term disabilities in babies with brain injury. Magnetic resonance spectroscopy, a type of scan which shows brain biochemistry, could help predict whether there will be long-term effects of brain injury (encephalopathy) in new-born babies. It is usually done alongside an MRI. Researchers scanned 82 babies being treated for brain injury, using MRI and also magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000745/brain-scan-may-predict-long-term-disabilities-in-babies-with-brain-injury>

NIHR Signal. Cognitive behavioural therapy may help ease depression in the workplace. Workplace-based interventions for people with depressive symptoms are effective. This review of 16 trials looked at early stage interventions to prevent depressive symptoms from developing into more severe depressive illness.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000747/cognitive-behavioural-therapy-may-help-ease-depression-in-the-workplace>

## Patient focus

BBC News. Heart test trial aimed at reducing strokes begins in East Anglia. Scientists have said they hope a new large-scale trial for a common heart condition will see a drop in strokes. The research led by the University of Cambridge will first test patients over the age of 65 in East Anglia for atrial

fibrillation (AF). AF is behind an irregular heartbeat and is often undiagnosed. Scientists said it increased the risk of having a stroke five-fold, and was associated with heart attacks and premature death from other causes.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-47540741>

Department of Health and Social Care. Building public trust for the use of patient data. Health Minister Nicola Blackwood's speech at an event to celebrate the role of the National Data Guardian being placed on a statutory footing. Although it may feel to us that data ethics and health data sharing are 21st century challenges, it is hardly a new concept that human progress is built on our ability to gather accurate information, share it ethically and, finally, critically analyse it so we can transform raw data into actionable knowledge.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-public-trust-for-the-use-of-patient-data>

Guardian. NHS data shows rise in homeless patients returning to streets. Exclusive: number of hospital discharges of people of no fixed abode up 30% since 2014. Thousands of homeless patients have been discharged from NHS hospitals directly back to the streets in the past five years, despite some being in recovery from major surgery and mental health crises, the Guardian can reveal. Experts have warned of a growing humanitarian crisis in England after instances of patients leaving hospital with nowhere to go rose by nearly a third between 2014 and 2018.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/13/nhs-data-shows-rise-in-homeless-patients-returning-to-streets>

King's Fund. Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2018: Results from the British Social Attitudes survey. Public satisfaction with the NHS overall continued to fall in 2018. Overall satisfaction was 53 per cent – a 3 percentage point drop from the previous year and the lowest level since 2007. Older people were more satisfied than younger people.

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/public-satisfaction-nhs-social-care-2018>

NHS England. NHS to test new rapid care measures for patients with the most urgent mental and physical health needs. People who arrive at A&E experiencing a mental health crisis will receive emergency care within one hour under NHS pilot schemes aimed at improving care and saving more lives. The new standard, a significant step towards parity of esteem for mental health.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/03/nhs-to-test-new-rapid-care-measures-for-patients-with-the-most-urgent-mental-and-physical-health-needs/>

NHS England. Implementing the NHS Long Term Plan - Proposals for possible changes to legislation. Staff and patients have been asked for their views on proposals to help the NHS deliver its Long Term Plan. The NHS has launched a call for views on how targeted amendments to the law could help local and national health organisations work together more effectively to improve services for patients.

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/nhs-long-term-plan-legislation/>

NHS England. NHS to give therapy for harmful social media as part of plan to tackle rare eating disorder. Hundreds of people will receive therapy to counteract the impact of harmful social media, as part of a new NHS service for the rare eating disorder diabulimia. Patients will be coached to deal with unrealistic body images amid increasing concerns about the potential damage social media can have on young peoples' mental health.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/02/nhs-to-give-therapy-for-harmful-social-media-as-part-of-plan-to-tackle-rare-eating-disorder/>

NIHR Signal. Training programme to improve communication between staff and patients with dementia in hospital shows promise. Communication with people with dementia can be challenging for healthcare professionals. A new two-day training programme shows potential to help professionals become more confident in managing difficult situations on the ward.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000741/dementia-staff-training-programme-may-improve-communication-between-staff-and-patients>

Pulse. NHS trust to give GPs hologram health advisers for patients at risk of suicide. GP surgeries in Liverpool are to be provided with 'crisis cards' and posters that patients at risk of suicide can scan to access support from a hologram health adviser. The cards were designed by technology company

Media and Digital, which specialises in augmented reality, in collaboration with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and suicide prevention charity James' Place.  
<http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/clinical/clinical-specialties/mental-health/nhs-trust-to-give-gps-hologram-health-advisers-for-patients-at-risk-of-suicide/20038384.article>

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Improving young people's experiences in transition to and from inpatient mental health settings. Transition into and out of inpatient mental health settings can be a difficult time for young people and their families. This guide explains the principles of good planning and also supports practitioners to provide a good transition experience for the young people they work with.  
<https://www.scie.org.uk/integrated-care/interventions/transfers-of-care/sharing-responsibility/young-people-mental-health>

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Improving personalisation in care homes. This guide is for managers or owners of care homes. Care home managers will be able to use the tool to support good conversations with residents and staff, and identify the improvements that will make the most difference to people's quality of life.  
<https://www.scie.org.uk/person-centred-care/improving-personalisation-in-care-homes>

Telegraph. One in four cancer patients wait two months for treatment, as NHS performance hits record low. The number of cancer sufferers waiting at least two months for treatment after an urgent referral from their doctor is the highest on record, official figures show. Almost one quarter of patients are being forced to wait longer for surgery or radiotherapy, with a steep decline in recent performance.  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/14/one-four-cancer-patients-wait-two-months-treatment-nhs-performance/>

## eHealth

BBC News. NHS told to ditch 'outdated' pagers. The NHS has been told to stop using pagers for communications by 2021, in order to save money. The health service still uses about 130,000 pagers, which is about 10% of the total left in use globally. They cost the NHS about £6.6m a year. Health Secretary Matt Hancock called them "outdated" and said he wanted to rid the NHS of "archaic technology like pagers and fax machines".  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47332415>

Digital Health. GDE Salford Royal launches own health and care app library. One of the Global Digital Exemplars (GDEs) has launched its own app library in a bid to help patients find the best and safest products. Each app in Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust's library has been subjected to seven stages of tests to investigate how good, secure and user-friendly they are.  
<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/03/gde-salford-royal-launches-app-library/>

Digital Health. Liverpool launches 'Livernerds Lab' to test latest digital technologies. The first digital testing space of its kind in the NHS has launched in Liverpool to trial the latest technologies to support patient care. The lab consists of two specialised areas; a smart room which simulates a hospital room, and a smart house which simulates a patient's home. Both spaces are fitted with digital technology including sensors, virtual reality and telehealth, all powered by high speed 5G.  
<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/03/liverpool-livernerds-lab-test-digital-technology/>

Digital Health. Charities call for quicker access to technology in NHS screening review. NHS England should look at integrating screening invitations with GP records and speeding up the implementation of new technologies as part of its review into cancer screening programmes. The review into England's three screening programmes was announced last month, with a focus on technology.  
<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/03/nhs-cancer-screening-review-charities-response/>

Digital Health. Thousands of GPs risk breaching data protection laws in new vaccine data system. According to the British Medical Association about 3,000 GP practices could be breaching data protection laws if they sign up to a new way of sharing childhood vaccination data. The system copies the whole GP database, rather than the minimal data required for the task it was designed for.  
<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/03/gps-breach-data-protection-laws-vaccine-system>

Digital Health. Do we need to get digital leaders on every board? If digital leadership is truly to flourish in the NHS, do CIOs and CCIOs need to be on every board? In advance of a session at Digital Health Rewired, Adam Wright – senior policy officer at NHS Providers – considers the issue. If NHS trusts and foundation trusts are to appoint digital leaders to boards, we need to be clear on what should be expected. Part of this will require the NHS to think differently about digital and information technology. <https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/03/do-we-need-to-get-digital-leaders-on-every-board>

Digital Health Age. 7 ways virtual reality is benefitting healthcare. Over the last few years, virtual reality (VR) has gone from strength to strength and now touches and influences almost every modern industry and field. Below, medical animation company Random42 covers exactly how this exciting technology has touched the field of healthcare and the pharmaceutical industry, how it is helping patients, professionals and students, and what we can expect from it in the years to come. <http://digitalhealthage.com/7-ways-virtual-reality-is-benefitting-healthcare/>

Digital Health Age. Digital health could save public health services £7.5bn across England, research suggests. Public health services in England could save up to £7.5 billion if digital health is adopted across England, according to research by Now Healthcare Group (NHG). The research has highlighted that the use of telehealth and digital consultations obviated the need for an NHS GP appointment in 56% of cases and a hospital appointment in 3% of cases if digital health via app-based tech was rolled out across the population. <http://digitalhealthage.com/digital-health-could-save-public-health-services-7-5bn-across-england-research-suggests/>

Guardian. Vaccine-deniers are gaining traction, warns NHS England chief. The head of NHS England has said that anti-vaccination messages are gaining traction on social media, as part of the fake news movement. The NHS is considering what action could be taken to prevent the spread of misinformation regarding vaccines. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/01/vaccine-deniers-gaining-traction-nhs-england-chief-simon-stevens>

Health Data Management. 10 principles to guide digital health and protect privacy. “Now more than ever, consumers are using a variety of digital tools and applications that involve their health and their health information. As a result, it is crucial that healthcare organizations be transparent about how they use consumer data, following ethical principles that everyone understands.” <https://www.healthdatamanagement.com/list/10-principles-to-guide-digital-health-and-protect-privacy>

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. Big data in healthcare: Breaking through the noise. “The information ecosystem is growing at unprecedented speed, and technologies with advanced capabilities to track and assess that information are multiplying. Smartphones. Wearables. Connected medical devices. All of these innovations harness the power to transform health outcomes; all require constant data collection and submission to do so.” <https://www.himss.org/news/big-data-healthcare-breaking-through-noise>

Imperial College News. New sensor technology can diagnose reproductive health problems in real-time. Researchers have developed a new robotic sensor that can detect women's reproductive problems by measuring hormones that affect fertility, sexual development and menstruation. The work has been published in Nature Communications and was a collaboration between Imperial College London and the University of Hong Kong. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/190314/new-sensor-technology-diagnose-reproductive-health>

inews. Tuberculosis patients more likely to continue treatment administered via smartphone app. A study by researchers from University College London found that tuberculosis patients were more likely to persevere with treatment administered through a phone app than through face-to-face appointments in a clinic. Using the app removes the need for daily visits to the clinic, which patients find inconvenient and stigmatising. <https://inews.co.uk/news/technology/tuberculosis-patients-more-likely-to-continue-treatment-if-administered-by-smartphone>

NICE. Evidence standards framework for digital health technologies. The aim of the standards is to make it easier for innovators and commissioners to understand what good levels of evidence for digital healthcare technologies look like, while meeting the needs of the health and care system, patients, and users. The standards were developed by NICE between June 2018 and February 2019 in collaboration with NHS England, Public Health England and MedCity. The work was commissioned by NHS England.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/about/what-we-do/our-programmes/evidence-standards-framework-for-digital-health-technologies>

Now Healthcare. The impact of telehealth and telepharmacy technology on public health service pressure and patient outcomes. Now Healthcare Group has produced a report quantifying the impact of digital technology on patient outcomes, medicine adherence and the reduction of pressure on public health services and private employers. The data is based on live Now Healthcare data combined with publicly available NHS and academic sources.

<https://www.nowhealthcaregroup.com/white-paper/>

### Staff focus

BBC News. Assaults on north Wales NHS mental health staff halve. Attacks by mental health patients on NHS staff at Wales' largest health board have halved in five years. Assaults on Betsi Cadwaladr staff fell from 559 in 2013-14 to 278 in 2017-18. It attributed the fall to a team of specialist nurses who train carers and frontline staff in ways to avoid confrontation and improve care. Ward manager Matt Jarvis, who was punched in the head by an "acutely psychotic" patient, said restraining people created distrust of staff.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-47541371>

BMJ. An unhealthy Brexit: uncertainty threatens UK and Irish medicine, say doctors. Clinicians are concerned for patients and the NHS workforce, as many critical medical questions remain unanswered with only weeks till Brexit, as Niamh Griffin reports. At a meeting in Belfast on 26 February more than 150 doctors from medical royal colleges in Ireland, Scotland, and England found little that was positive for health after the UK leaves the European Union, due on 29 March.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/364/bmj.l1098>

BMJ. David Oliver: Contentious comments from NHS England's chair. In February NHS England's chair, David Prior, waded into the debate on the state and future of the NHS. At a meeting hosted by the Reform think tank he said that relentless edicts and targets from NHS central bodies had left local clinicians and managers feeling "learned helplessness" instead of exercising professional leadership. Prior also criticised the commitment and discretionary effort of staff, lamenting that they wouldn't stay at work to help out beyond contracted hours—for instance, in the emergency department when they were ready to go home—and that some were retiring too soon.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/364/bmj.l1082>

Department of Health and Social Care. Nurses are mission-critical to culture change in the NHS. Secretary of State Matt Hancock's speech at the Chief Nursing Officer for England's Summit. "Nurses, and chief nurses in particular, are mission-critical to the change in culture we need to see in the NHS. Because you lead the organisations that you work in, at every level, from chief nurse to clinical specialist, to paediatrics, to ward matron, to theatre nurse, every nurse, caring for every patient, in every setting across the land."

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/nurses-are-mission-critical-to-culture-change-in-the-nhs>

Global Health 50/50. Equality works. This report focuses on gender equality in the workplace, reviewing policies, programmes, and indicators of power and privilege across 198 global organisations active in health. It aims to provide an in-depth look at gender equality within the workplace across four dimensions: commitment, evidence-informed policy content, equitable outcomes in power and pay, and gender-responsive programming.

<https://globalhealth5050.org/2019-report/>

Guardian. Stephen Hawking's former nurse struck off for failings in his care. One of Stephen Hawking's former nurses has been struck off after the Nursing and Midwifery Council ruled she "failed to provide the standards of good, professional care that we expect and Professor Hawking deserved".

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/12/stephen-hawking-nurse-struck-off-failings-care>

Health & Care Women Leaders Network. Men as allies. This report explores some of the important actions and behaviours men can adopt to support the development of female leaders in the NHS. The report was compiled following conversations with a number of male senior leaders who shared their views on the barriers facing women getting to leadership roles in the NHS and how those barriers can be overcome. It also includes contributions from a Tweet chat held by the network on the topic of men as allies in January 2019.

<https://www.nhsconfed.org/news/2019/03/men-as-allies>

Imperial College London. NHS staff graduate from programme that supports them to take up research. Healthcare staff from three NHS hospital trusts have completed an Imperial programme that aims to support them into research, this month. The Starting Out in Research programme is aimed at NHS staff such as allied health professionals, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and healthcare scientists.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/190466/nhs-staff-graduate-from-programme-that/>

King's Fund. Compassion: your greatest leadership contribution? Compassion and inclusive leadership are essential for enabling staff to perform their best. Suzie Bailey considers the cultural change required to deliver on the ambitions of the NHS long-term plan.

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2019/02/compassion-your-greatest-leadership-contribution>

NHS England. NHS to celebrate health and care heroes as it launches parliamentary awards. The NHS has launched its parliamentary awards to celebrate and give national recognition to staff who go above and beyond the call of duty. The awards were created to celebrate NHS staff, carers and volunteers – their hard work, innovative ideas and unwavering efforts to put patients first.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/03/nhs-celebrate-health-and-care-heroes/>

NHS England. New Chief People Officer to help build the NHS workforce of the future. NHS Improvement and NHS England have appointed Prerana Issar to the role of Chief People Officer. The new position is part of the NHS Executive Group and will play a leading role in ensuring that NHS in England has enough people, with the right skills and experience to deliver the improvements for patients set out in the Long Term Plan.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/03/new-chief-people-officer/>