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

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

News story

Nursing Careers Resource

This resource has been jointly developed by the Royal College of Nursing and Health Education England to help registered nurses and the clinical support workforce across the UK plan their health careers effectively.

It is designed to provide you with a range of ideas about the varying roles that you can enjoy throughout your health career. We hope this inspires and motivates you to proactively plan your next career move.

The resource is divided into two sections, registered nurses and the clinical support workforce. As development of this resource progresses, it will become a tool that provides career guidance for all nurses, nursing associates and the support workforce.

See: Nursing Careers Resource

RCN highlights

Young people’s mental health nurse is RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year 2019. Emma McKinney, a specialist nurse practitioner working in child and adolescent mental health services has won the RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Award 2019.
NHS People Plan good on ambition but too light on detail. The RCN has responded to publication of the interim workforce plan for the NHS in England. The Interim NHS People Plan, launched to tackle shortages of health care staff in England, has been published. It has a particular focus on recruiting more nurses, which it says is an urgent priority.

RCN responds to Government review of higher education. The majority of nursing students will be no better off with reduction in university fees by 2021. RCN Director of Nursing Policy and Practice Bronagh Scott said: “The reduction in fees will only benefit the highest earners and the average nurse could now be paying back their loans for 40 years after graduation.

RCN Council elections open. Members have until 4.30pm on Friday 19 July to put themselves forward for election to 13 seats on RCN Council, the governing body of the RCN. Members will be elected for four years with the next elections due to take place in 2023.

Action needed to spot sepsis, say nurses calling for national early-warning system for children. Nursing staff and sepsis survivor call for investment in sepsis training. Health care staff and the public must be educated on the signs of sepsis to save tens of thousands of lives lost each year, nursing staff will say today. Between 1,000 and 4,000 under-fives die of sepsis every year in the UK, according to the UK Sepsis Trust. Yet there is not currently a universal, nationally validated system to identify deterioration in child patients.

What should the future of RCN membership look like? Have your say during our member consultation. The RCN is asking members for their ideas about what the future membership of the RCN should look like. Members are invited to suggest changes to the current membership categories and subscription plans.

Urgent investment in district nursing needed as nurse numbers fall. Nursing bodies call for a commitment to investment and training for district nursing services that provide a lifeline to patients and families. A new report from the RCN and Queen’s Nursing Institute (QNI) shows the number of district nurses working in the NHS in England has dropped by almost 43% in the last 10 years. As a result, there are only 4,000 district nurses providing care for a population of around 55.8 million people.

Nurses crucial in preventing early death for people with serious mental illness. A new RCN report says nurses are best placed to help close the huge gap in life expectancy between people with serious mental illness and the rest of the population. According to the World Health Organisation, people with serious mental illness die up to 20 years before the rest of the general population. Clinicians agree that the biggest reason for this lower life expectancy is the failure to detect and treat the physical health problems of people with mental illness.
New name for support worker members agreed at AGM. Members voted in favour of changing the name of the health practitioner member category but did not approve a resolution to change the Standing Orders relating to the terms of office of RCN Council members. RCN members agreed to change the name of health practitioner members to nursing support workers following a vote at the RCN Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Liverpool today. The name of the RCN Health Practitioners Committee will now change to the Nursing Support Workers Committee.

New safe staffing report calls for urgent investment to increase nurse numbers. New UK-wide safe staffing update from the RCN demonstrates the need for long-term workforce planning. Governments across the UK should be held fully accountable for nursing workforce shortages across health and care settings, the RCN has said. In a new safe staffing report the College is calling on governments to implement robust, evidence-based workforce planning in all UK publicly-funded care settings.

National Career Framework for Stroke nurses. The RCN Neuroscience forum is developing a National Career Framework for Stroke nurses in the UK. Forum Committee members have together with other stroke nursing networks been leading a project to create this framework to attract and retain nurses. It will also enable, support and promote a robust stroke nursing workforce. We believe that a career framework for stroke nurses is a resource that can empower nurses and be of value to organisations, with clear benefits to those who suffer a stroke. Read about the project and how to get involved.

Time and Space. Enabling defusing activities leaflet. Making time for nursing teams to defuse after challenging or difficult situations can support their psychological wellbeing and enhance their self care and management. It can also help to sustain a workforce and reinforce teamwork while providing a perfect opportunity to share success and positive experiences. This leaflet, developed by the RCN Nursing in Justice and Forensic Health Care Forum, aims to provide tips and activities to help nurses facilitate and benefit from defusing sessions. This leaflet has been sponsored by Liverpool Victoria.

Parity of Esteem – Delivering Physical Health Equality for those with Serious Mental Health Needs. This publication gives an overview of the work the RCN is doing to address the mortality gap between people with serious mental illness and the rest of the population as well as our work towards establishing parity of esteem between mental and physical health.

Forums Review of the Year 2018. The role of forums is vital in contributing to the professional voice of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). This publication covers forum membership and governance, and looks at forum communication channels and achievements during 2018.
Staffing for Safe and Effective Care: RCN Member Campaigning in the UK. The RCN is campaigning for laws ensuring safe and effective staffing in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, following a resolution passed by our members at RCN Congress 2016 after the successful introduction of the Nurse Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/007-674

A Competence Framework for Orthopaedic and Trauma Practitioners. The RCN recognises the importance and value of orthopaedic and trauma practitioners in clinical practice. These competencies have been revised to support these practitioners in a clear, consistent and evidence based format to reflect their specific, specialist knowledge and skills.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007036

Iron Deficiency and Anaemia in Adults. Iron deficiency anaemia (IDA) is a widespread problem affecting an estimated two billion people worldwide and is the most common cause of anaemia seen in primary care. This guidance has been developed by expert nurses from several specialties and is for the use of nurses, health care assistants (HCAs), midwives, and health visitors from all specialties and backgrounds. Pharmacosmos UK Ltd and Vifor Pharma UK Ltd have provided funding, medical and scientific advice.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/007-460

Sexual and reproductive health: education, training and career progression in nursing and midwifery. Nurses and midwives who wish to work in sexual and reproductive health need further education and training to do so. It is a specialist area that requires post-registration education, training and development not covered on undergraduate programmes in enough depth. This publication has been developed alongside an online resource available at: www.rcn.org.uk/sexualhealtheducationdirectory and offers detail on the routes available to train in these areas and signposts nurses and midwives to valuable information. Produced with support from Health Education England.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/007-502

Events

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.

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

25th International Mental Health Nursing Research Conference 2019. 12 Sep 2019 09:00 - 13 Sep 16:00, RCN London, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. Join us for an exciting and informative programme of talks, debates and presentations about transforming mental health
care services. Discover how nurse-led initiatives are influencing the global mental health agenda and improving quality of life for people living with mental health difficulties. The call for abstract closes at midnight on Monday 22 April 2019

RCN Foundation Care Homes Summit 2019. 23 September 2019, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. With nearly half a million older people living in nursing and residential homes within the UK, the independent care sector employs over 40,000 registered nurses. This summit will explore and highlight the many ways that the nursing team continues to achieve excellent outcomes for residents within care homes.

Moving forward... at pace: RCN Executive Nurse Network Conference 2019. 26 Sep 2019 09:30 - 18:00, RCN London, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. This event aims to give nurse leaders a non NHS perspective on leadership, resilience, emotional intelligence, compassion and excelling in conquering challenges. Speakers will provide a new and invigorating approach to feed the conscience and imagination of those in challenging roles.

RCN Advanced Nurse Practitioner Conference 2019. 28 Sep 2019 09:00 - 17:00. Birmingham Conference and Events Centre (BCEC), Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4EW. This one day conference will provide a professional update on clinical issues and practice, disseminate research about and by ANPs, showcase innovation and service developments and offer a networking opportunity for ANPs.

More RCN Events. The RCN runs seminars, workshops and conferences throughout the year. Hear about professional nursing issues from expert speakers, exchange ideas with colleagues, and learn about the latest research and innovation in your area of practice.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events

Quality improvement
Audit, reviews, legislation, inspections, regulation

Care Quality Commission. Review of restraint, prolonged seclusion and segregation for people with a mental health problem, a learning disability and/or autism. This report gives the interim findings from the CQC review of the use of restrictive interventions in places that provide care for people with mental health problems, a learning disability and/or autism.

Department of Health and Social Care. NHS accountability framework 2019 to 2020. The government’s accountability framework with NHS England and NHS Improvement combines the annual statutory mandate to NHS England with its remit for NHS Improvement. The financial directions to NHS England provide further detail on how NHS England’s budget is broken down. This takes into account the joint working between the two organisations to lead the NHS in taking forward its Long Term Plan.

Department of Health and Social Care. Changing Places capital funding for NHS hospitals: prospectus. NHS trusts in England can now bid for funding to install Changing Places toilet facilities
for severely disabled people in NHS hospitals. The prospectus sets out: how the funding can be used; eligibility; the application process; and requirements for Changing Places facilities.

HQIP. New reports recommend improvements to a range of services. The Healthcare Qualify Improvement Partnership has made recommendations to commissioners for improvements to services for COPD, breast cancer, lung cancer and other disease areas. The reports draw on data from clinical audits and patient outcome reports. HQIP is a partnership of several royal colleges and National Voices, the representative body of the voluntary sector.
https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/?#.XOK81chKhPZ

Guidance, innovation, tools

Digital Health. £22m competition launched to set up ‘Digital Innovation Hubs’. A £22 million competition has been launched to help set up five “Digital Innovation Hubs” connecting regional healthcare data with genetic and biomedical information across the country. Part of a wider £37.5 million funding programme launched last year, the innovation hubs will give UK scientists and clinicians access to high-quality health data from the NHS, universities and social care in a bid to find faster cures for disease and deliver more efficient clinical trials.
https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/05/competition-launched-digital-innovation-hubs

Evening Standard. Almost three quarters of a million people are set to benefit from NHS tech innovations. From handheld devices utilising gentle electric stimulation to reduce the pain of cluster headaches, to 3D heart modelling facilitating the quick diagnosis of coronary heart disease, these are just a few of the tech innovations set to be introduced as part of the NHS Innovation and Technology Payment programme.

NHS England. NHS funds tech to protect prostate cancer patients during radiation treatment. An innovation that can reduce the side-effects of radiotherapy for prostate cancer patients by over 70 per cent will be rolled out across the NHS, as part of the Long Term Plan to put cutting-edge treatments at the heart of people’s care.

NHS Improvement. Falls prevention resources. These resources have been updated to include a template for local audit for the falls CQUIN, which will soon be followed by a video of a narrated presentation providing further information on implementing the falls CQUIN.
https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/falls-prevention-resources/

Royal College of Psychiatrists. Working well together: evidence and tools to enable co-production in mental health commissioning. This resource was commissioned by NHS England to support delivery of the Five year forward view for mental health and the NHS long-term plan. This document aims to improve local strategic decisions about, and the provision of, current and future mental health services for children, young people, adults and older adults.
Royal Osteoporosis Society. Exercises to promote bone and muscle strength. For exercise to be most effective at keeping bones strong a combination of weight-bearing exercise with impact and muscle strengthening exercise is advised. The Royal Osteoporosis Society has produced a video and accompanying fact sheet on practising these exercises. 

Practice examples and case studies

Housing LIN. Dementia Care Best Practice - Housing 21. Housing LIN has gathered examples of where extra care schemes or other housing related community services have supported people with dementia to develop meaningful relationships to prevent unwanted social isolation or reduce loneliness. 
https://www.housinglin.org.uk/News/Dementia-Care-Case-Study-Housing-21/

Housing LIN. Dementia Care Best Practice - Sycamore Dining Service. Sycamore dining brings people together over good quality meals. Customers are encouraged to sit together at large tables, so they mix, get to know each other, and make friends. The challenge is to get lonely and socially isolated people, such as older people. People from all backgrounds are encouraged to visit the diner, including people living both with and without dementia. 
https://www.housinglin.org.uk/News/Sycamore-Dining-Service/

Reports, commentary, statistics

BBC News. Chief nursing officer to lead 10-year cancer strategy. Northern Ireland's chief nursing officer is to head a group developing a new 10-year cancer strategy. Professor Charlotte McArdle said the projected rise in cancer cases is one of the biggest challenges facing the health service in Northern Ireland. 
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-48218264

Centre for Mental Health. Engaging with complexity. Engaging with complexity offers public services a brief guide to the principles of trauma informed care and how to put it into practice. Looking at the concept of trauma (including causes, impact and prevalence), the report explores the model of trauma-informed care, and UK organisations currently employing such approaches. 
https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/engaging-complexity

Children's Commissioner. Far less than they deserve: children with learning disabilities or autism living in mental health hospitals. This report finds that too many children are being admitted to secure hospitals unnecessarily – in some cases are spending months and years of their childhood in institutions when they should be in their community. It warns that the current system of support for those with learning disabilities or autism is letting down some of the most vulnerable children in the country. 

Health for Care. Crisis in care: what do MPs think? Health for Care is a coalition, led by the NHS Confederation, of 15 national health organisations. To inform government thinking ahead of the Green Paper and the expected spending review in autumn 2019, Health for Care wanted to test the views of MPs on whether they believe there is a crisis in social care, whether they have noticed an increase in their constituency casework regarding social care, and what options for reform they would favour.
Health Foundation. The improvement journey. Why organisation-wide improvement in health care matters, and how to get started. This report is a practical guide to developing an organisation-wide approach to improvement. It summarises the benefits of such an approach and outlines the key elements and steps that NHS trust leaders should adopt when pursuing this agenda.

Incisive Health. Care deserts: the impact of a dysfunctional market in adult social care provision. This report by Incisive Health highlights the extent of the local lottery that now exists when trying to secure residential care or care at home, and the long-feared emergence of ‘care deserts’ in some places. These are localities where there is no care available, even when older people can afford to pay, leaving significant sections of the population with potentially long distances to travel to get suitable care.

Institute of Economic Affairs. Integrating health and social care: state or market? This report argues that better outcomes in patient care and efficiency can be facilitated only within a system that allows more competition in health care provision, with different organisations integrating health and social care according to the preferences of their customers and clients.

Institute for Fiscal Studies. The health effects of Sure Start. Despite Sure Start’s rapid expansion and the subsequent cuts, evidence of its impact on the health of children and their families is still relatively scarce. This report considers the overall impacts on health of the Sure Start programme as a whole between its inception in 1999 and its peak in the late 2000s. The focus on health outcomes is motivated by the fact that, while Sure Start’s services were multifaceted and varied between centres and over time, one of its objectives was to improve children’s health.

King’s Fund. Social care 360. People often complain about the lack of data about social care; there is, in fact, a significant amount but it is often held in fragmented databases that are rarely explored. This review outlines and analyses 20 key trends in adult social care in England over recent years.

New Economics Foundation. Still no homes for nurses: how NHS land is being sold off to build unaffordable homes. Of the NHS sites declared ‘surplus’ in England in 2017–18, 23 have the capacity for more than 80 homes. Among the findings of this research on those sites: only 5 per cent of the homes built on sold-off NHS land will be for genuinely affordable social rent; 30 per cent of the sites have plans for no affordable housing at all; and 61 per cent have plans that include no socially rented housing.

NHS Improvement. Interim NHS People Plan. This interim plan, developed collaboratively with national leaders and partners, sets a vision for how people working in the NHS will be supported to deliver care and identifies the actions that NHS England will take to help them.

Reform. The future of eye care: building on NHS reform success. Reform hosted a policy seminar on the future of eye care in December 2018, with the support of Novartis. This policy briefing offers an
overview of the discussion that took place, outlining in particular the role of the eye care sector in delivering the long-term NHS agenda. Particular attention is given to the lessons that the sector can offer for primary care delivery, with a view to reducing pressure on the hospital sector – a key priority of the NHS long-term plan.

Royal College of Psychiatrists. Position statement on antidepressants and depression. This position statement sets outs the RCP’s view on promoting optimal use and management of antidepressants. It discusses the challenges with prescribing antidepressants, including considering the evidence around efficacy, benefits and harms, ensuring they are used when clinically indicated and managing withdrawal. The statement includes a range of recommendations aimed at the UK health departments, national bodies and commissioners.

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Integrated care research and practice. This new digital resource aims to support the planning, commissioning and delivery of co-ordinated person-centred care. Based on the integration logic model, it brings together the evidence base and practice guidance on what good integrated care looks like. Funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, it is designed as a practical, digital tool and will be updated regularly in order to support the drive towards improvement and innovation.
https://www.scie.org.uk/integrated-care/research-practice

**Patient safety**

AHRQ PS Net. Opioid Safety. This primer focuses on the safety hazards posed by indiscriminate opioid prescribing. The Primer describes the nature of the opioid epidemic as a patient safety problem, discusses the epidemiology of opioid prescribing and its resultant effects on patient safety and mortality, and reviews strategies that have been implemented to address the epidemic (American).
https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primers/primer/48/Opioid-Safety

BBC News. Nursing staff shortage forces hospital ward closure. A community hospital in Oxford is to temporarily close because it does not have enough nurses. Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust said its 12-bed City Community Hospital at the Fulbrook Centre would close at the end of the month. It said the move was for "patient safety" because there was insufficient registered nursing staff to ensure safe staffing of the unit.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-48285850

British Journal of Surgery. Reducing surgical mortality in Scotland by use of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. The WHO Surgical Safety Checklist has been implemented widely since its launch in 2008. It was introduced in Scotland as part of the Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) between 2008 and 2010, and is now integral to surgical practice. Its influence on outcomes, when analysed at a population level, remains unclear.

BMJ. WHO’s surgical safety checklist: it ain’t what you do. Checklists can help reduce mortality and morbidity, finds Greta McLachlan, but only if they are well implemented. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the UK’s adoption of the World Health Organization’s surgical safety checklist. WHO’s list contains 19 checks to be read aloud to the whole team, some at each of three stages of an operation—sign in, time out, and sign out.
https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l2237
BMJ. Exclusive: Unredacted report reveals patient safety concerns at “dysfunctional” Morecambe Bay urology unit. A 2016 report by the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) into the urology service at Morecambe Bay University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been released for the first time, revealing a dysfunctional surgical team, allegations of bullying and racism, and a risk to patient safety.
https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l2352

Guardian. Sepsis survivors at increased risk of death after critical illness. Sepsis survivors are at a heightened risk of death in the years after their illness if it has been critical, research has shown. Of those discharged from hospital in England after a critical care admission, 15% died within 12 months.
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/31/sepsis-survivors-are-at-increased-risk-of-death-after-illness-study

Guardian. One in 10 GPs see twice as many patients as safe limit, survey finds. GPs are seeing up to 60 patients a day, double the number they consider safe, as services struggle with staff shortages and a rising demand for care. The findings of a survey of family doctors prompted a warning that some are becoming ill because they have to put in such long hours. GPs across the UK work an average 11-hour day, according to research by the medical website Pulse.

Guardian. NHS bosses accused of breaking law in cancer scanning privatisation. Oxfordshire councillors tell health secretary contract for InHealth endangers patients. Oxfordshire councillors have warned that cancer patients in Thames Valley will receive a poorer service because NHS England has decided to take a contract for PET-CT scanning away from Oxford university hospitals (OUH) trust and hand it to the private firm InHealth.

IHI. Patient safety essentials toolkit. This toolkit includes documents on improving teamwork and communication, tools to help health practitioners understand the underlying issues that can cause errors, and valuable guidance about how to create and maintain reliable systems. Each of the nine tools includes a short description, instructions, an example, and a blank template. Please note that free registration is required to access the toolkit.
http://www.ihi.org/resources/Pages/Tools/Patient-Safety-Essentials-Toolkit.aspx

National Health Executive. Inspectors say significant delays to treatment and patients in corridors ‘cannot continue’ at Blackpool hospital. Significant delays and severe pressures at Blackpool Victoria Hospital’s emergency department has forced CQC inspectors to state that the practice “simply cannot continue” at its current level.

Professional Record Standards Body. Medicines information guidance to improve safety across health and care. The PRSB has now published new guidance to enable the digital sharing of medications information between care settings, which will help improve patient care and reduce medication errors across the NHS and social care.

Evidence-based practice
Evidently Cochrane. Evidently Cochrane aims to make Cochrane evidence really accessible, and to encourage discussion about it, through blogs which usually feature new or updated reviews on a health topic. Visit the website for a complete list of blogs, including evidence for everyday nursing and evidence for everyday midwifery.  
http://www.evidentlycochrane.net/

Institute for Social and Economic Research. The prevalence and persistence of ethnic and racial harassment and its impact on health: a longitudinal analysis. Around one in ten people from ethnic minorities in England have reported experiencing ethnic and racial harassment in a public place, and almost double that number have reported feeling unsafe or avoiding public places – both of which are associated with poorer mental health, according to this report.  

National Health Executive. Inspectors say significant delays to treatment and patients in corridors ‘cannot continue’ at Blackpool hospital. Significant delays and severe pressures at Blackpool Victoria Hospital’s emergency department has forced CQC inspectors to state that the practice “simply cannot continue” at its current level.  

NICE. Lower price for MS drug paves the way for positive recommendation from NICE. A new, lower price for a drug to treat a rarer form of multiple sclerosis in adults has paved the way for its approval by NICE. Ocrelizumab (Ocrevus, Roche) is now recommended for treating primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS) in adults.  

NICE. Prostate cancer: diagnosis and management. This guideline covers the diagnosis and management of prostate cancer in secondary care, including information on the best way to diagnose and identify different stages of the disease, and how to manage adverse effects of treatment. It also includes recommendations on follow-up in primary care for people diagnosed with prostate cancer.  
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng131

NICE guideline. Suspected neurological conditions: recognition and referral. This guideline covers the initial assessment of symptoms and signs that might indicate a neurological condition. It helps non-specialist healthcare professionals to identify people who should be offered referral for specialist investigation.  
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng127

NICE guideline. Stroke and transient ischaemic attack in over 16s: diagnosis and initial management. This guideline covers interventions in the acute stage of a stroke or transient ischaemic attack (TIA). It offers the best clinical advice on the diagnosis and acute management of stroke and TIA in the 48 hours after onset of symptoms.  
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng128

NIHR Signal. Iron deficiency in people with chronic kidney disease can be managed with either oral or IV therapy. For people with chronic kidney disease who are also iron deficient, intravenous iron improves haemoglobin levels and iron stores faster than oral iron. However, the evidence is inconclusive about whether it influences survival, cardiovascular death, or quality of life. Adverse
effects and such as allergic reactions or gastrointestinal side effects and other practicalities are likely
to determine the choice of a route of administration.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000773/chronic-kidney-disease-anemia-treatments-compared

NIHR Signal. A laser eye procedure can be effective and safe if used early as treatment for glaucoma. Using a laser to improve drainage of fluid within the eye showed similar results to eye drops as a first-line treatment for adults with open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension (raised pressure in the eye). It improved vision without increasing the risk of adverse events. It was preferred by patients and also associated with lower costs.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000774/early-glaucoma-laser-eye-treatment-trabeculoplasty

NIHR Signal. Better care of deteriorating patients has reduced US mortality after surgery. These US findings support the recently introduced early warning system in the NHS called NEWS2. This aims to detect which patients are deteriorating so that management can be escalated. This is a hospital-wide initiative for all adult patients, not just following surgery.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000764/better-care-of-deteriorating-surgical-patients-reduced-us-mortality

Oxford Academic Health Science Network. National survey of local innovation and research needs of the NHS. This report includes analysis of the innovation and research needs at a local level across all Academic Health Science Networks. These include: a need for innovation and research addressing workforce challenges; delivering mental health services and providing care for patients with mental health needs, particularly children and young people; integrating services to provide effective care for patients with complex needs – including multi-morbidity and frailty; and using digital and artificial intelligence technology.

Patient focus
BBC News. Inside the UK's drug buyers' clubs. In a meeting room tucked away behind a clothes market in east London, around 10 people are meeting to discuss how they might import drugs from South America. This group of patients and parents are hoping to buy a copy or generic version of Orkambi - a drug which helps slow the decline in lung function and decrease the risk of infections in people with cystic fibrosis.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-48357762

BBC News. NHS 'should not prescribe acne drug'. The parents of young people who have killed themselves and patients unable to have sex are calling for the NHS to stop prescribing acne drug Roaccutane. Ed Henthorn said it had caused him erectile dysfunction, psychosis and suicidal thoughts. And one man who believes his son killed himself after taking the drug said the risks "are just too high". Manufacturer Roche said "millions of patients worldwide have benefited from taking the drug".
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47952076

Belfast Telegraph. NHS staff who skip flu jab could wear label informing patients – medical chief. Professor Dame Sally Davies said she felt ‘very strongly’ that NHS staff should receive the annual flu jab. NHS staff who are not vaccinated against the flu should have to wear a badge informing patients, England’s chief medical officer has suggested.
FoNS Centre for Nursing Innovation. A student reflection on person-centredness. “Person-centredness and person-centred practice are complex but learning is continuous and the lessons learned can be applied in small ways in order to improve healthcare for practitioners and those receiving care.”

Guardian. NHS to sign up patients for 'virtual' A&E in tech revolution. Patients checking systems will be told by chatbot if they need to go to hospital. Millions of patients will be encouraged to use digital technology to assess how ill they are under a groundbreaking initiative by a leading NHS hospital, as part of a drive to reduce the use of A&E and outpatient appointments.

Guardian. Today I have to talk to three of my patients about dying. This is how I do it. It’s tempting to put these all-important conversations off but the consequences can be dire. It’s 9.15am. The medical team is full of energy and caffeine. We have patients to see, some of whom are on the road to recovery, others who have already been recognised as dying, and some who have uncertain futures.

NHS England. NHS hands 50,000 people control of their own care. More than 50,000 people have taken charge of their own care after being handed control of how their NHS funding is spent. Personal Health Budgets can be used to purchase personalised wheelchairs, assistance dogs and respite care to manage complex health problems, as well as tech devices that can control curtains, lighting, heating and door intercoms to help people live independent lives.

NICE and SCIE. New advance care planning guide. A new guide from NICE and SCIE helps managers of care services to support people to prepare for a time when they do not have the capacity to make their own decisions. It includes advice about helping people to make decisions and ensuring all relevant information is included when developing a plan.

NIHR Signal. Communication problems are top of patients’ concerns about hospital care. Patients have different concerns from clinicians when asked about problems with their care, and may identify preventable safety issues. The study suggests that inpatient surveys can identify patient safety issues and that collecting this data could help trusts identify areas where patient experience could be improved.

NIHR. New NIHR Patient Engagement in Clinical Development initiative. A new NIHR initiative is bringing patients and life science companies together earlier in the clinical development process. The aim of the service is to facilitate patient involvement before a study's protocols are finalised to help make commercial clinical research more patient-friendly, and achieve better recruitment and retention in the long term.
PRSB. Getting end of life care right. Campaigner and former carer Roberta Lovick and Compassion in Dying nurse Sarah Malik, to talk about their own experiences with end of life care. As well as discussing the difficulties of opening these conversations to begin with, they talk about the challenges of what happens when conversations don’t happen, or information isn’t communicated correctly.

https://theprsb.org/news/podcasts/

Sky News. Severe headache sufferers offered new treatment on NHS. The NHS is rolling out a number of medical innovations which are expected to benefit more than 400,000 people in the next year. People who suffer from excruciating cluster headaches are to be offered a new treatment on the NHS which removes the need for pills. The hand-held Gammacore device blocks the pain signals which cause cluster headaches by delivering mild electrical stimulation to the vagus nerve.


Voluntary Organisations Disability Group. Above and beyond: how voluntary sector providers of disability support add value to communities. This report describes the influence and potential of voluntary sector providers of social care through real-life stories from four disability support providers across England. The report outlines the voluntary care sector’s key impacts, including: engaging local partners and harnessing the potential of community resources; reducing social isolation and promoting inclusion; and changing perceptions of disability.


eHealth
BMJ. Government is urged to set realistic digital targets for NHS. Policy makers must take a realistic view when setting targets for NHS hospitals to digitise and should strike the right balance between “national standardisation and local flexibility,” experts have advised. National policies should focus on the most pressing needs of NHS patients and staff and on equipping the clinical and non-clinical workforce with the “skills and confidence” to work with technology, a report by the Nuffield Trust recommends.

https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l2404

Digital Health. £22m competition launched to set up ‘Digital Innovation Hubs’. A £22 million competition has been launched to help set up five “Digital Innovation Hubs” connecting regional healthcare data with genetic and biomedical information across the country. Part of a wider £37.5 million funding programme launched last year, the innovation hubs will give UK scientists and clinicians access to high-quality health data from the NHS, universities and social care in a bid to find faster cures for disease and deliver more efficient clinical trials.

https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/05/competition-launched-digital-innovation-hubs/

Digital Health. ‘Digital midwives’ open up about role challenges and hopes for the future. A number of “digital midwives” have spoken about the challenges they face in their roles. Over the past two years NHS Digital has been growing a network of digital midwives from around England. Digital Midwives are involved in supporting clinical IT systems used in maternity.

https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/05/digital-midwives-open-up-about-role-challenges-and-hopes-for-the-future/

Digital Health. Google Deepmind’s senior clinical scientist says AI will not “deskil” workers. Speaking at the Kings Fund Digital health and care congress, Dr Alan Karthikesalingam, Google Deepmind’s senior clinical scientist, highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence to improve the lives of busy clinicians.
Digital Health Age. Hospital Trust to have pagers replaced by over 300 smartphones. Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust is to replace staff pagers with smartphones. The phones, provided by Ascom, will allow the trust to send alerts to staff, enabling them to respond more quickly to emergencies.

Health Europa. One in ten NHS Trusts are fully digitised, despite plans for a paperless NHS. A Freedom of Information request has revealed that only one in ten of NHS trusts are fully digitised despite the government’s plans for a paperless NHS by 2020. In January 2019, the UK government announced its new NHS Long Term Plan to address the healthcare system’s lack of interoperability, aiming to improve the quality of patient care and healthcare outcomes in the UK.

Health Foundation. Untapped potential: Investing in health and care data analytics. This report highlights nine key reasons why there should be more investment in analytical capability. Action and investment is needed across the system so the NHS has the right people with the right tools to interpret and create value from its data. This could result in an NHS that can make faster progress on improving outcomes for patients.

King’s Fund. Clicks and mortar: Technology and the NHS estate. Technology and the NHS estate are important enablers for delivering change in health and care, including those recently set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, but they have too often operated in silos. This report outlines how bringing technology and the estate together in planning across organisations and local systems could deliver an NHS estate which is better for patients and staff, smarter and more integrated.

Lancet. Deriving a practical framework for the evaluation of health apps. The rise of digital health, fuelled by access to smartphones and connectivity to apps, has resulted in a plethora of mobile technology-based innovations. For patients and clinicians, picking the most suitable apps is difficult because of evolving evidence, emerging privacy risks, usability concerns, and the fact that apps constantly update and change.

NHS Digital. NHS Digital chief nurse calls on nurses and midwives to continue to take the lead on digital revolution. To mark International Nurses’ Day NHS Digital’s acting chief nurse, Caron Swinscoe, wrote about how small technological and information sharing advances have the chance to make a real difference to nurses and midwives on the frontline and the patients they care for.

NHS England. A Digital Framework for Allied Health Professionals. This Digital Framework for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) supports local services and AHPs to make that happen and works towards services that are both paper-free at the point of care and connected to other services and systems.
Nuffield Trust. Achieving a digital NHS: Lessons for national policy from the acute sector. As a new body, NHSX, becomes established to lead national policy for technology, digital and data, and with the Secretary of State firmly behind plans to create a fully digital NHS, this report seeks to understand how national policy for digitisation is working from the perspective of acute trusts. [https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/achieving-a-digital-nhs-lessons-for-national-policy-from-the-acute-sector](https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/achieving-a-digital-nhs-lessons-for-national-policy-from-the-acute-sector)

Pulse. Push Doctor temporarily suspends appointments for under-18s. Online GP provider Push Doctor has temporarily stopped providing appointments for children and young people under the age of 18 as part of a series of service updates. It released a statement on its website saying the updates were to review ‘patient safety’ and to change the way children consult on the platform. The website stated child consultations will return to the service, but gave no definitive date for this. [http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/gp-topics/it/push-doctor-temporarily-suspends-appointments-for-under-18s/20038728.article](http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/gp-topics/it/push-doctor-temporarily-suspends-appointments-for-under-18s/20038728.article)

Social Market Foundation. This report considers how technology could be adopted more quickly and more widely by the NHS to improve the care that patients receive and to drive better health outcomes. The report tracks the patient journey, from prevention and diagnosis in the community, into primary and secondary care, through into the management of long-term conditions. It sets out proposals for the future development of technology in the NHS. [https://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/delivering-digital-health-for-all](https://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/delivering-digital-health-for-all)

Sky News. Video calls for the elderly are helping reduce strain on stretched NHS. New technologies including video calls are being used in a trial in Manchester to help reduce the strain on stretched NHS services. Sky News was granted exclusive access to the Digital Healthcare Unit at Tameside Hospital where the team has prevented 1,000 avoidable visits to A&E and saved 2,000 GP appointments over the last year. [https://news.sky.com/story/video-calls-for-the-elderly-are-helping-reduce-strain-on-stretched-nhs-11728415](https://news.sky.com/story/video-calls-for-the-elderly-are-helping-reduce-strain-on-stretched-nhs-11728415)

**Staff focus**

AOL UK. NHS staff asked views on assurances over treatment of whistle-blowers. The views of NHS staff are being sought as part of a consultation on plans to address how whistle-blowers are treated. Holyrood’s Health and Sport Committee raised concerns last year, as part of its inquiry into how NHS staff are managed, that the current arrangements for whistle-blowers are not adequately robust. [https://www.aol.co.uk/living/2019/05/08/nhs-staff-asked-views-on-assurances-over-treatment-of-whistle-bli](https://www.aol.co.uk/living/2019/05/08/nhs-staff-asked-views-on-assurances-over-treatment-of-whistle-bli)

BBC News. NHS turns to Mumsnet to fill nurse vacancies. The NHS in England will turn to Mumsnet to help recruit nurses as part of a package of measures to fill vacancies in the health service. NHS bosses see the online parenting chatroom and website as a crucial partner to entice nurses who have left the profession, to rejoin it. It is one of a number of steps unveiled in the interim People Plan. The report sets the ambition of recruiting an extra 40,000 nurses over the next five years. [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-48438139](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-48438139)

BBC News. NHS staff shortage: How many doctors and nurses come from abroad? The UK’s National Health Service (NHS) will soon begin a major campaign to recruit health workers from other countries to meet growing staff shortages. Reports suggest a strategy has been drawn up to target a number of countries around the world, including poorer nations outside Europe. [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-48205445](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-48205445)
Centre for Mental Health. Strengthening the frontline. Primary care has a crucial role to play in suicide prevention. Strengthening the frontline explored the role of GP services in helping people who are at risk of suicide, reviewing the evidence about what GPs and their colleagues could do to help save lives among people with suicidal feelings. [https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/strengthening-frontline](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/strengthening-frontline)

Guardian. Plan to hire thousands of foreign nurses for NHS is axed. Target was politically difficult for a government committed to reducing net migration. A controversial target of hiring 5,000 foreign nurses a year for at least 15 years has been cut from a flagship plan to deal with the NHS’s staffing crisis, the Observer understands. The move will frustrate health chiefs, who are desperate for a clear strategy to reduce NHS staffing pressures, which are expected to worsen. [https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jun/02/foreign-nurses-target-cut-from-nhs-staffing-plan](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jun/02/foreign-nurses-target-cut-from-nhs-staffing-plan)


Independent. What do patients really think about NHS staff? By analysing comments – a staggering 29 million words – people left online about the national health service, Paul Baker discovered how everyone from surgeons to receptionists are viewed. Using computer software to detect the most common uses of language, and then analysing certain types of comment in detail, they spent three years working on the data. [https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-staff-patient-feedback-website-england-a8903521.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-staff-patient-feedback-website-england-a8903521.html)

NHS Improvement. Interim NHS People Plan. This interim plan, developed collaboratively with national leaders and partners, sets a vision for how people working in the NHS will be supported to deliver care and identifies the actions that NHS England will take to help them. [https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/interim-nhs-people-plan/](https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/interim-nhs-people-plan/)

Nuffield Trust. The NHS workforce in numbers. Despite the huge scale of its labour force, it is increasingly apparent that the NHS doesn’t have enough staff to meet demand. This explainer lays out the facts – in so far as the existing data allow – on size and structure of the current NHS workforce. It highlights the extent of current shortages and their effect, and outline some of the workforce pressures that lie ahead. [https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/resource/the-nhs-workforce-in-numbers](https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/resource/the-nhs-workforce-in-numbers)

QNI. Outstanding models of district nursing. This report, written in conjunction with the Royal College of Nursing, calls for urgent investment in district nursing, as new figures show the number of district nurses working in the NHS has dropped by almost 43 per cent in England in the past 10 years. It explores all the elements that need to be in place to support an outstanding district nursing service. [https://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/urgent-need-for-more-investment-in-the-district-nursing-service/](https://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/urgent-need-for-more-investment-in-the-district-nursing-service/)

Royal College of General Practitioners. Fit for the future: a vision for general practice. This report outlines the RCGP’s vision for the future of general practice, which is informed through consultation with GPs, health professionals and patients, alongside research commissioned from The King’s Fund. [https://www.rcgp.org.uk/policyandresearch/news-events/fit-for-the-future-a-vision-for-general-practice](https://www.rcgp.org.uk/policyandresearch/news-events/fit-for-the-future-a-vision-for-general-practice)
It makes the case for longer face-to-face GP consultation times and a wider skill-mix within general practice.

Scotsman. Hundreds of NHS staff endured bullying and harassment at work. Hundreds of health staff have endured bullying and harassment at NHS Highland, a review into working conditions has found. And the Scottish Government was accused of “dithering” over its response after it emerged ministerial officials were aware of the situation two years ago. Staff experienced “fear, intimidation and inappropriate behaviour at work”, according to the review headed by John Sturrock QC.