



Quality and Safety Bulletin

Issue 117: 12 September 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

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

News story



Research proves we need safer staffing

Professor Anne Marie Rafferty, RCN President, has been involved in two decades of vital nursing workforce research. She explains how the evidence could help us achieve safe staffing.

The growing global evidence that Anne Marie and academic colleagues have gathered shows we need more nurses, with the right skills and support, if we want to reduce patient mortality and improve nurses' wellbeing.

The RCN has used this research to create the aims of its safe staffing campaign and tell all four UK governments what nurses and patients need now. We sat down with Anne Marie to find out more about her crucial work.

[Read the article](#)

RCN highlights

Government announces £1,000 personalised training budgets for nurses. The Chancellor, Sajid Javid, has announced that every nurse working in NHS hospitals, community settings and GP surgeries in England will have access to a personal training budget of more than £1,000 over three years to support their learning and development. While the announcement is welcome, the RCN said it only

addressed one cause of nurse shortages in the NHS, and that it failed to make up for previous cuts to CPD.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-personalised-training-budgets-for-nurses-030919>

NHS Scotland nursing vacancies reach all-time high. The Royal College of Nursing is calling on the Scottish government to take action now to address nursing workforce shortages in health and social care, as the latest statistics from NHS Scotland reveal the highest ever vacancy rate, with over 4,000 nursing posts unfilled. Staffing for safe and effective care has been enshrined in law with the passing of the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act in May.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/isd-workforce-stats-3-sept-2019>

Voting opens for RCN Council elections. Voting is now open for the RCN Council elections. Members have until 30 September to return their ballot papers. Elections are taking place in the following eight constituencies; London, Northern, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South East, Wales, West Midlands and Yorkshire & the Humber.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-voting-opens-for-rcn-council-050919>

Act now to fund our future nurses. Ahead of next month's Spending Round, we're calling on the government to invest at least £1billion a year into nursing higher education in England to attract more people to enter the profession and help grow the workforce. You can amplify the message by tweeting the Chancellor, Sajid Javid MP, asking him to fund our future nurses.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-act-now-to-help-fund-our-future-nurses-270819>

RCN says hospital food review won't make up for lack of investment in nursing. The government's new review into NHS hospital food aims to improve food served to staff, patients and visitors. However, the RCN has said that nursing staff are unlikely to see any benefit unless there is wider investment in the health care system.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-hospital-food-review-230819>

RCN Blogs. Latest blogs include: Council hustings, Linking work and health: the role of nurses, a call for examples of UK nursing contributions towards the UN's sustainable development goals 2030 and Be yourself: the experience of a student nurse.

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

RCN magazines. Latest articles include: Government announces £1,000 personalised training budgets for nurses, voting opens for RCN Council elections, act now to help fund our future nurses, RCN says hospital food review won't make up for lack of investment in nursing and Nursing student numbers are still falling short.

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

Events

Open House London 21 Sep 2019 10:00 - 16:30, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G ORN. Join a special tour of the Royal College of Nursing headquarters in the heart of London. Gifted to the College in the 1920s, our HQ is a clever mix of architectural styles and periods. It incorporates a late 1720s house once belonging to Herbert Asquith, with a glorious painted staircase and a purpose-built 1920s College of Nursing. Come and explore this hidden gem for yourself. No need to book. Just turn up on the day and join a group for a guided tour.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/open-house-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.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/care-homes-conference-2019>

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.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/rcn-executive-nurse-network-conference-2019>

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.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/rcn-advanced-nurse-practitioner-conference>

RCN Student Debate 2019. 08 Oct 2019 18:00 - 21:00, Wellington Park Hotel, 21 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6RU. How can we achieve equality of health outcomes when access to NHS services vary so greatly across the UK? Join us online or in person for this debate when you'll have a chance to listen to speakers from both sides and have your say. This event is open to all.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/uk-student-debate-081019>

Flight nursing workshop 2019. 19 Oct 2019 09:00 - 16:30, RCN London, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. Are you a nurse working in or interested in the aviation medicine industry? This is an excellent opportunity to gain relevant and useful CPD and network with fellow flight nurses. This workshop aims to provide an overview of what's topical and relevant to nurses working in aviation from a global perspective, challenges and how to overcome them.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/uk-critical-care-and-flight-nursing-forum-workshop-191019>

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

CQC. CQC follows up on recommendations made in its review of children and young people's mental health services. The CQC is inviting Health and Wellbeing Boards in England to tell say whether their local system to support children and young people with mental health problems matches the recommendations made in the Are we listening? report.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/cqc-following-recommendations-made-its-review-children-young-peoples-mental-health>

CQC. Updated agreement between CQC and DHSC. The memorandum of understanding looks at the inspection and monitoring of independent termination of pregnancy services. The agreement sets out how CQC and the DHSC's Healthy Behaviours Team will work together to safeguard the wellbeing of people using independent termination of pregnancy services in England.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/updated-agreement-between-cqc-dhsc>

Guidance, innovation, tools

NHS England and NHS Improvement. Life-changing drug to stop deadly bleeding available on the NHS. NHS England and NHS Improvement are to fund a life changing treatment for thousands of people with severe Haemophilia, which will dramatically cut their risk of life-threatening bleeds and reduce treatment time. A new drug, emicizumab (also referred to as Hemlibra®), will be available for around 2,000 people in England.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/08/life-changing-drug-to-stop-deadly-bleeding-available-on-the-nhs/>

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee. Guidance on the seasonal influenza vaccination advanced service 2019/20. This briefing provides guidance for community pharmacy contractors and their teams on the 2019/20 NHS seasonal influenza vaccination advanced service. It discusses the background to and aims of the service, service provision, which vaccines should be covered and training of staff.

<https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/guidance-on-the-seasonal-influenza-vaccination-advanced-service-2019-20-august-2019/>

Practice examples and case studies

Public Health England. The role of community pharmacies in sexual health services. This case study reports on the Umbrella Sexual Health in Birmingham. At a time when sexual health services across the country are struggling to cope, this service is managing increasing demand whilst overseeing year-on-year improvements in public health outcomes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/the-role-of-community-pharmacies-in-sexual-health-services>

Public Health England. Case study: accessing sexual health testing online. Sexual Health London was developed in London through the London Sexual Health Programme, a partnership of 31 London local authorities, which enables sexual health services to meet the combined challenge of rising demand and fewer resources.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/accessing-sexual-health-testing-online>

Reports, commentary, statistics

Age UK. More harm than good: why more isn't always better with older people's medicines. This report calls for a more considered approach to prescribing medicines for the older population. The report provides evidence showing that prescribing more drugs isn't always the best option, particularly when it comes to older people.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/latest-press/articles/2019/august/age-uk-calls-for-a-more-considered-approach-to-prescribing-medicines-for-older-people/>

Centre for Health Economics. Drivers of health care expenditure: final report. Since the NHS was established, growth in health care expenditure (HCE) has outpaced the rise in both GDP and in total public expenditure. To identify the challenges and opportunities for developing a model of health

care demand, this report looks at drivers of past trends in health care expenditure and how much each of the drivers has contributed to past increases in expenditure.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/che/news/news-2019/che-research-paper-169/>

Children's Commissioner. Bleak houses: tackling the crisis of family homelessness in England. This report shines a light on this homelessness crisis and shares the experiences of some of those children. The Children's Commission visited children and families living in temporary accommodation, and spoke with them and some of the frontline professionals who work with them.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/bleak-houses/>

Guardian. Pharmacies to offer heart checkups in new NHS England scheme. Heart checkups are to be offered at high street pharmacies under new plans from NHS England, as part of a programme which seeks to prevent tens of thousands of heart attacks and strokes over the next decade.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/sep/02/pharmacies-to-offer-heart-check-ups-in-new-nhs-england-scheme>

Health Foundation. What should be done to fix the crisis in social care? This report says the new government must urgently act to stabilise and reform adult social care in England if it is to avoid growing numbers of older and disabled people being unable to access the care they need. This analysis sets out the priorities for reform and what it would cost to establish a fairer, more comprehensive system.

<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/new-government-must-act-to-end-the-shameful-social-care-policy-failure>

NHS England. NHS cuts medicines costs by three quarters of a billion pounds. The NHS has saved more than £700 million from the annual medicines bill to reinvest in new treatments as part of the Long Term Plan. An NHS-wide campaign has supported patients and doctors to maximise the use of 'generic' and best value 'biologic' treatments to treat conditions including arthritis and cancer.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/08/nhs-cuts-medicines-costs-by-three-quarters-of-a-billion-pounds/>

Office for National Statistics. How does UK healthcare spending compare with other countries? This briefing provides an analysis of UK health care spending relative to comparable countries, such as the G7 group of large developed economies or member nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It finds that the UK spends an average of £2,989 per person on health care, which is around the median for OECD countries.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthcaresystem/articles/howdoesukhealthcarespendingcomparewithothercountries/2019-08-29>

Office of Health Economics. Unrelieved pain in palliative care in England. This study estimates that currently there are approximately 125,971 end-of-life patients receiving, or in need of, palliative care suffering from unrelieved pain. Of these, an estimated 16,130 patients experience no relief from their pain at all in the last three months of life.

<https://www.ohe.org/news/unrelieved-pain-palliative-care-england>

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee. Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s.

In July 2019, the government published a Green Paper consultation document, Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s, which outlines policy ideas to help prevent and detect ill health at an earlier stage. This PSNC Briefing summarises the key elements which are of most relevance to community pharmacy. The public consultation on the Green Paper closes on 14 October

2019. <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/how-to-become-a-healthy-living-pharmacy-level-1-august-2019/>

Patient safety

AHRQ Patient Safety Primer. Clinical Decision Support Systems. Clinical decision support systems are designed to provide information or recommendations to help clinicians make safe and evidence-based decisions. This primer discusses the growing use and sophistication of clinical decision support systems, enabled by widespread implementation of electronic health records and advances in clinical informatics (American).

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primers/primer/51>

BBC News. Call for HPV vaccine to be offered to older boys. The Teenage Cancer Trust wants the HPV vaccine programme to be extended to older boys and young men. Strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV) are linked to the majority of cervical cancer cases as well as oral, throat and anal cancers. Teenage girls have been able to get the HPV jab in the UK since 2008 but now boys aged 11-13 will be offered it too.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-49522669>

BMJ Open Quality. Reducing pressure ulcers across multiple care settings using a collaborative approach. Pressure injuries/ulcers remain unfortunately common and are considered largely preventable. This improvement paper reports on how one NHS Region in the UK set about reducing the incidence and severity of pressure injuries.

<https://bmjopenquality.bmj.com/content/8/3/e000409>

Department of Health and Social Care. New service to deliver urgent medicines and medical products into UK. The Department of Health and Social Care is setting up a service to deliver urgent medicines and medical products into the UK within 1 to 4 days as part of Brexit preparations. An express freight service to deliver medicines and medical products into the country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-service-to-deliver-urgent-medicines-and-medical-products-into-uk>

Guardian. Lives at risk from surge in measles across Europe. The dramatic surge in measles across Europe is putting lives at risk. Data released by the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed nearly 90,000 cases and 37 deaths were reported across 48 of the 53 countries in the WHO European region in the first six months of 2019.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/aug/29/lives-at-risk-from-surge-in-measles-across-europe-experts-warn>

Guardian. Seven in 10 hospital trusts failing to meet safety standards. Patient safety is frequently at risk in NHS hospital trusts in England, with 70% of them failing to meet national safety standards, with staff shortages the biggest problem. Reports by the CQC reveal that a shortage of critical beds at another trust led to three serious incidents resulting in patient harm.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/sep/08/seven-in-10-hospital-trusts-fail-to-meet-safety-standards>

Lancet. Type and timing of menopausal hormone therapy and breast cancer risk. New data have confirmed that the risk of breast cancer is increased during use of all types of HRT, except vaginal estrogens, and have also shown that an excess risk of breast cancer persists for longer after stopping HRT than previously thought. Prescribers of HRT should discuss the updated total risk with women using HRT at their next routine appointment.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S014067361931709X?via%3Dihub>

WHO. World Patient Safety Day. On the first-ever World Patient Safety Day on 17 September 2019, WHO will launch a global campaign to create awareness of patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer. Join the global campaign to increase public awareness and engagement and spur global action.

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-patient-safety-day/2019>

Evidence-based practice

Cochrane podcasts. Cochrane podcasts deliver the latest Cochrane evidence in an easy to access audio format. Each Cochrane podcast offers a short summary of a recent Cochrane review from the authors themselves. Recorded in more than 30 languages, they are brief, allowing everyone from healthcare professionals to patients and families to hear the latest evidence in under five minutes.

<https://www.cochrane.org/evidence/podcasts>

NICE. Caesarean section. This guideline covers when to offer caesarean section, procedural aspects of the operation and care after caesarean section. It aims to improve the consistency and quality of care for women who are considering a caesarean section or have had a caesarean section in the past and are now pregnant again.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg132>

NICE. Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and management. This guideline covers identifying and treating primary hypertension (high blood pressure) in people aged 18 and over, including people with type 2 diabetes. It aims to reduce the risk of cardiovascular problems such as heart attacks and strokes by helping healthcare professionals to diagnose hypertension accurately and treat it effectively.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng136>

NICE. Type 2 diabetes in adults: management. This updated guideline covers the care and management of type 2 diabetes in adults (aged 18 and over). It focuses on patient education, dietary advice, managing cardiovascular risk, managing blood glucose levels, and identifying and managing long-term complications.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng28>

NICE Talks. How should we care for people with dementia? What are the early warning signs of dementia and how important is an early diagnosis? Guests include Dr Hilda Hayo, Chief Admiral Nurse and CEO of Dementia UK and Lesley Carter, Clinician lead at Age UK.

<https://soundcloud.com/nicecomms/how-should-we-care-for-people-with-dementia/s-Gbi6v>

Public Health England. E-cigarettes: an evidence update. This review explains the relative risks and benefits of e-cigarettes, in terms of harm reduction when compared with cigarettes and as an aid to quitting. It reviews latest evidence to conclude that e-cigarettes are around 95 per cent safer than smoked tobacco and they can help smokers to quit.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/e-cigarettes-an-evidence-update>

SIGN. Management of chronic pain. This updated guideline provides recommendations based on current evidence for best practice in the assessment and management, in non-specialist settings, of adults with chronic non-malignant pain, defined for the purposes of this guideline as pain that has been present for more than 12 weeks.

<https://www.sign.ac.uk/sign-136-management-of-chronic-pain.html>

SIGN. British guideline on the management of asthma. The 2019 update includes a complete revision of the section on monitoring asthma including new information on predicting future risk of asthma

attacks, and updates to the sections on pharmacological management of asthma, supported self management, non-pharmacological management of asthma, and management of acute asthma in adults and children. It also includes a new checklist of information for patients and carers.

<https://www.sign.ac.uk/sign-158-british-guideline-on-the-management-of-asthma.html>

SIGN. Risk reduction and management of delirium. This guideline provides recommendations based on current evidence for best practice in the detection, assessment, treatment and follow up of adults with delirium, as well as reducing the risk of delirium. The guideline applies to all settings: home, long-term care, hospital, and hospice.

<https://www.sign.ac.uk/sign-157-delirium.html>

Patient focus

Department of Health and Social Care. Personalised health checks to be considered in new review. The Health and Social Care Secretary has announced an evidence-based review into the NHS Health Check service. A review of the NHS Health Check service will explore new intelligent, predictive checks, taking age, risk factors and lifestyle into account.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/personalised-health-checks-to-be-considered-in-new-review>

Department of Health and Social Care. Hospital food review announced by government. The government will work with the NHS to improve food quality in hospitals and provide consistently safe, nutritious and tasty food. Every year, the NHS serves more than 140 million meals to patients across the country. The quality and nutritional value of these meals can vary substantially.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hospital-food-review-announced-by-governmen>

Digital Health. 'Huge increase' in patients registering for Patient Access. EMIS Health has cited a "huge increase" in patients using online GP services after registrations for Patient Access rose by a third in just over 12 months. According to EMIS, the Patient Access service has seen sign-ups increase from six million to eight million since the app was re-launched just over a year ago.

<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/09/emis-cites-huge-increase-in-patients-registering-for-patient-access/>

NHS Digital. Helping patients manage their referral online. The e-RS Manage Your Referral website is easy for patients to use. It allows them to book, check, change and cancel their appointments online without help from the practice. Patients can take control and book their own appointment on a convenient date and time and at their preferred hospital or clinic if there is a choice.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/e-referral-service/helping-patients-manage-their-referral-online#information-packs>

NIHR. Closer links between police and health services can improve experiences for people in mental health crisis. Tighter working partnerships between health professionals and police services are likely to improve the care of people who come into contact with police during mental health crises. People experiencing severe mental health episodes can present with extreme and unpredictable behaviour posing a danger to themselves and members of the public.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000809/mental-health-crisis-support-links-between-police-and-health-services>

Nuffield Trust. Patient experience of NHS and social care services. This QualityWatch update uses data from national patient surveys to compare the experience of different NHS and social care services. Overall, access to GP services has worsened, experience of inpatient services has improved, and satisfaction with adult social care services has remained stable.

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/patient-experience-of-nhs-and-social-care-services-1>

Nursing Notes. Suspending parliament to push a no-deal Brexit would be catastrophic for patients. Pushing through a no-deal Brexit could lead to a shortage of “life-saving” medication and ultimately be catastrophic for patients, health leaders have warned. The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and the British Medical Association (BMA) are among eleven organisations to join forces to issue the warning.

<https://nursingnotes.co.uk/suspending-parliament-push-no-deal-brexit-catastrophic-nhs/>

eHealth

Diabetes.co.uk. NHS England to offer wearable tech to help people reduce type 2 diabetes risk. Up to 8,000 people deemed to be at high risk of type 2 diabetes will be given fitness trackers as part of an NHS England scheme. Eligible participants will also be offered 24-hour digital coaching, support and education on an app designed to encourage users to set and monitor goals

<https://www.diabetes.co.uk/news/2019/aug/nhs-england-to-offer-wearable-tech-to-help-people-reduce-type-2-diabetes-risk-91153756.html>

Digital Health. Mobile and Modern Working – Advisory Series. Mobile technology is increasingly part of life for most of us, including staff in the health and care sector. But it’s probably fair to say that while staff are increasingly digitally adept in their personal lives, the NHS, as a whole, has yet to harness it fully. Jennifer Trueland reports on how and when that might change.

<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/08/advisory-series-mobile-and-modern-working-2/>

Digital Health. Hearing and sight loss patients trained to use digital health tools. People with hearing and sight loss in West Yorkshire and Harrogate are to be trained to use digital health tools to make visiting the GP easier. The project is being run by mHabitat and was designed to find out more about the challenges faced by people with hearing and sight loss when making and attending GP appointments.

<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/09/hearing-and-sight-loss-patients-trained-to-use-digital-health-tools/>

Digital Health. Artificial intelligence ‘predicts fatal heart attacks up to 5 years in advance’. Artificial intelligence could be used to predict those at risk of a fatal heart attack up to five years in advance, new research has found. Experts at the University of Oxford have developed a “fingerprint”, or biomarker, using machine learning.

<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/09/artificial-intelligence-predicts-heart-attacks/>

Health Foundation. Making new technologies work for everyone. While automation has been around since the Industrial Revolution, recent advances in artificial intelligence and robotics are pushing the boundaries of what can be automated. Tim Horton and Tom Hardie look at what this means for the future of our health and health services.

<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/blogs/making-new-technologies-work-for-everyone>

Nature Medicine. Do no harm: a roadmap for responsible machine learning for health care. Interest in machine-learning applications within medicine has been growing, but few studies have progressed to deployment in patient care. This article presents a framework, context and ultimately guidelines for accelerating the translation of machine-learning-based interventions in health care.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-019-0548-6>

NHS Digital. Nine new tools and services to use NHS login. NHS login – the service providing patients with a secure, simple way to identify themselves and match them to their records – will be used by

nine more services. This represents a real leap forward in the vision to enable patients to access a range of digital healthcare services using a single, secure login.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/nine-new-tools-and-services-to-use-nhs-login>

NHS England. England's top nurse to recruit NHS 'social media influencers' to extend the reach of NHS App. England's Chief Nursing Officer, Ruth May has launched the drive to find 10 passionate NHS ambassadors including nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and doctors to promote the use of the new app, which marks a step change in how people are able to engage with the NHS and access their medical records.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/09/englands-top-nurse-to-recruit-nhs-social-media-influencers-to-extend-the-reach-of-nhs-app>

The Medical Futurist. Where Does Diabetes Technology Stand In 2019? Diabetes continues to affect the lives of millions around the world. Diabetes management went through a radical transformation in the last years due to technology. This article looks at where diabetes technology stands today and what could we expect in the next 5-10 years?

<https://medicalfuturist.com/where-does-diabetes-technology-stand>

Staff focus

BBC News. Royal College of Nursing in NI to ballot members on possible strike. The RCN in Northern Ireland has decided to ballot members working in the local health service on possible strike action. It said it has taken the step because of a nurse staffing crisis in Northern Ireland.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-49157267>

Cancer Research UK. Lack of government action on NHS staffing undermines ambition to diagnose cancer early. In just one year, around 115,000 cancer patients in England are diagnosed too late to give them the best chance of survival, according to new calculations. This means that nearly half of all cancers diagnosed with a known stage in England are diagnosed at stage 3 or 4.

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-us/cancer-news/press-release/2019-09-02-lack-of-government-action-on-nhs-staffing-undermines-ambition-to-diagnose-cancer-early>

Health Foundation. Better financial support needed to prevent nursing students dropping out before graduation. Analysis by Nursing Standard and the Health Foundation shows a quarter of all nursing students are leaving or suspending their degrees before graduation. With the health service struggling with a shortage of nurses – estimated at 40,000 vacant posts in England alone – the issue of nursing student attrition has never been more pressing.

<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/a-quarter-of-all-nursing-students-are-dropping-out-of-their-degrees>

Holyrood. NHS Scotland consultant and nursing vacancy rates hit 'highest level since 2007'. NHS Scotland's workforce crisis is deepening, with new data revealing vacancy rates among nurses, midwives, medical and dental consultants have reached the highest levels in 12 years. The NHS Information Services Division (ISD) data revealed that there were 4,013 nursing and midwifery positions vacant in Scotland, the highest rate since September 2007.

<https://www.holyrood.com/articles/news/nhs-scotland-consultant-and-nursing-vacancy-rates-hit-%E2%80%98highest-level-2007%E2%80%99>

King's Fund podcast. The core of care: Dame Donna Kinnair on bravery in leadership and the nursing workforce. How can we address the nursing workforce crisis? Dame Donna Kinnair, Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, sits down with Helen McKenna to talk about nursing, workforce pressures and her leadership journey.

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/podcast/donna-kinnair-nursing-workforce>

NHS Employers. Pension tax guidance for employers. In August 2019, the government announced that it will act to introduce pension changes to enable senior clinicians to take on additional clinical activities without incurring unexpected pension tax bills. This guidance has been prepared to help employers to support staff who are likely to be affected by these pension tax issues.

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/case-studies-and-resources/2019/09/nhs-pensions-tax-guidance>

NHS England. 'NHS Passports' to help staff work flexibly and cut admin costs. Health service staff in England will be able to move seamlessly between sites in a bid to make it easier to take on new roles, plug gaps in staffing and improve patients' care. All hospitals in England are being urged to sign-up to passporting agreements, which will cut the need for up to two-day inductions and other admin when staff move between organisation

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/09/nhs-passports-to-help-staff-work-flexibly-and-cut-admin-costs/>

Nursing in practice. Every nurse, midwife to have access to £1,000 personal training budget. The Chancellor, Sajid Javid, has announced a £210 million boost for frontline NHS staff which includes funding for a £1,000 personal development budget for every nurse, midwife and allied health professional to support their continuing professional development (CPD) needs over three years of the revalidation cycle.

<https://www.nursinginpractice.com/article/every-nurse-access-%C2%A31000-training-budget>

SCIE. Place-based leadership development programmes. This case looks at the impact of two innovative programmes which aim to develop systems leaders and place-based, collaborative forms of leadership: Frimley 2020 Leadership Programme and Leaders in Greater Manchester. The learning from the case study will help leadership grow in integrated care systems (ICSs) and other systems-wide approaches in health and social care.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/integrated-care/leadership/learned/place-based-leadership>