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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RCN Nursing Department

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

News story

Social prescribing
Social prescribing occurs when health professionals or link workers refer patients to support in the community, in order to improve their health and wellbeing.

GPs, nurses and other members of the primary care team are able to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services often provided by the voluntary sector. It can help individuals to experience a better quality of life, improved mental and emotional wellbeing, and lower levels of depression and anxiety.

Find out more

RCN highlights
Climate change: nurses can help make health care more sustainable. The RCN has published a statement of how it intends to help tackle the climate change crisis. It stresses the negative consequences of global warming on people’s health and says these will be catastrophic if urgent action isn’t taken.

RCN council election results are revealed. Thirteen members are set to take up seats on the RCN’s governing Council in January. Members have been voted into RCN Council seats representing UK constituencies and nursing support worker members. Members have been elected for four years with their term of office from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2023. https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-rcn-council-election-results-are-revealed-011019


Homeless hospital discharge nursing. A small number of nurses have been finding ways to serve the health needs of the UK’s growing homeless population. Sam Dorney-Smith explains how they’re making care more inclusive https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines/bulletin/2019/september/what-is-homeless-hospital-discharge-nursing

Join our campaign for safe staffing. Without safe staffing levels in place, nursing staff are struggling to provide patients with the safe and effective care they would like to, and which patients deserve. We’re calling for safe and effective care to be enshrined in law in each UK country. https://www.rcn.org.uk/employment-and-pay/safe-staffing

RCN Infection Prevention and Control Programme - Acquire the skills to fight antimicrobial resistance. The RCN’s Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programme will help you to develop your clinical and leadership skills through a unique course of learning and its application into practice. https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/professional-services/rcn-ipc-module

Responding to climate change. RCN position statement. Balancing the risks of climate change and the need for immediate action will be challenging for the RCN and its members. There is personal action that individual nurses can take, changes and action that the RCN can make. Nurses can protect the health of the public and influence change but we must act now. https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007878

RCN Peer Support: Removing Disabling Barriers at Work. This guidance provides tools and approaches to remove barriers at work for health care professionals for with long-term conditions, physical impairments, mental ill health and neurodiversity. It has been created based on the lived experience of the RCN Peer Support Group. https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007-788

RCN Blogs. Latest blogs include: Inspiring and supporting people with long-term health conditions to get active, RCN Council meeting update, Celebrating Diversity in Nursing, and First Anniversary of the Homeless Reduction Act (HRA) and the ‘Duty to Refer’. https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/blogs

RCN magazines. Latest articles include: Climate change: nurses can help make health care more sustainable, RCN Council election results are revealed, NHS bodies say government must be clear on
who is accountable for the nursing workforce, Northern Ireland strike ballot scheduled for October,
Public urged to pressure government to fix the nursing workforce crisis and Help beat the flu.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines

Events

Flight nursing workshop 2019. 19 Oct 2019 09:00 - 16:30, RCN London, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G ORN. 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.

RCN Ophthalmic Nursing Conference 2019. 02 Nov 2019 08:45 - 16:30, RCN London, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G ORN. Join us for this one day conference and benefit from the latest updates and developments to help you stay ahead in your career. Whether you are new to ocular health or an expert in your field, this event offers a supportive environment to reflect on your practice within the wider context of ophthalmic nursing. Book before 11 August 2019 to secure your 15% early bird discount.

From Maggots to Matrons: Rituals and Myths in Nursing. Book launch. 06 Nov 2019 17:30 - 19:30, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G ORN. Claire Laurent’s Rituals & Myths in Nursing: A Social History (Pen & Sword, 2019) explores the history behind those rituals, challenges the more absurd and celebrates the increasing complexity of the job that is nursing. The talk will be followed by a drinks reception and book signing.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/maggots-to-matrons

Women's Health Conference and Exhibition 2019. 13 Nov 2019, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G ORN. We welcome all those who work in women’s nursing from gynaecology ward nurses to practice and specialist nurses. We also welcome students and those newly practicing. The conference will be an invaluable platform for you to network with your fellow colleagues and to be a part of the discussion. You will leave the conference feeling informed, enlightened and with a new energy to engage with the challenges you face within your profession.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/uk-womens-health-131119

Annual Hawking MND Lecture 2019. 20 Nov 2019, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G ORN. Join us online or in person for the Hawking MND lecture where leading research is presented on different aspects of MND/ALS. This year’s focus is nutrition. This free lecture is a collaboration between the MND Association and the RCN to further understanding and knowledge of the long-term and progressive neurological condition, MND/ALS.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/uk-hawking-mnd-lecture-201119

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. A constant state of readiness is the best cure for CQC anxiety - podcast. This year CQC has simplified the inspection regime so that the 96% of GP practices that are already rated good or outstanding get an annual phone call with site visits at up to five-year intervals. 
https://soundcloud.com/pcc_nhs/a-constant-state-of-readiness

Department of Health and Social Care. New hospital building programme announced. New hospital building programme to ensure the NHS’s hospital estate supports the provision of world-class healthcare services for patients.

Department of Health and Social Care. UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats. The Chief Medical Officer has announced funding for projects to help beat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and achieve global universal health coverage.

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales. Online primary care joint statement from regulators. The regulators of healthcare services across the UK have published a joint statement regarding the provision of online primary care.
https://hiw.org.uk/online-primary-care-joint-statement-regulators

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts. Penalty charge notices in healthcare. This report finds that the current PCN process penalises those who fail to navigate the complex exemption criteria and neglects clear evidence of abuse by repeat offenders. It concludes that the system requires a fundamental overhaul and is not fit for purpose.
https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmpubacc/2038/2038.pdf

HQIP. Five more clinical audits published – recommendations for commissioners. Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) has published five reports on mental healthcare, diabetes, maternity and perinatal weight management, ophthalmology and congenital heart disease.
https://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/#.XZsGvkZKhPa

Guidance, innovation, tools

Alzheimer’s Society. Accelerator Programme. The Alzheimer’s Society Accelerator Programme is investing in innovations to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. Applications must be received by 7 November 2019. It could be a simple product that makes an everyday task easier for a person living with dementia, or an innovative idea for a new service or way of working for care home staff.
https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/research/our-research/accelerator-programme

NHS England and NHS Improvement. Using online consultations in primary care: implementation toolkit. This online consultation toolkit is an interactive document that provides a range of ideas and options for different professionals, including clinicians, at different points in their implementation journey.
Public Health England. Health matters: rough sleeping. This guidance focuses on the scale of rough sleeping in England, the causes and consequences of rough sleeping (including the links with poor physical and mental health, prevention and effective interventions) and relevant calls to action. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-rough-sleeping/health-matters-rough-sleeping


RCGP & RPS. Top tips: Managing medicines for adults receiving social care in the community. The guide, for GPs and pharmacists, draws on the NICE guideline and quality standard on managing medicines in the community. Areas covered include shared decision-making, the inclusion of care-at-home providers, needs assessment and recording. https://www.rcgp.org.uk/-/media/Files/CIRC/Desktop-guides/Managing-medicines-for-adults-receiving-social-care-in-the-community-Final-Aug-2019.ashx

Practice examples and case studies


FoNS Blog. Providing a safe space for people to grow and develop. This week FoNS share a blog from Deb Smith, Ward Manager, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital and Inspire Improvement Fellow who explores providing a safe space for people to grow and develop. https://www.fons.org/common-room/blogs


Reports, commentary, statistics

British Psychological Society. New BPS report shows psychology is key to beating the obesity problem. Policymakers must do more than tell people to show greater willpower if government is to crack the obesity problem, says a new report from the British Psychological Society. https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/new-bps-report-shows-psychology-key-beating-obesity-problem

Centre for Mental Health. A new approach to complex needs: Primary Care Psychological Medicine - first year evaluation. The Primary Care Psychological Medicine service offers psychological interventions to people who have high levels of unexplained or persistent physical symptoms of illness. This report finds that the service has reduced the use of GP, outpatient and emergency department services in one year by more than its own staff costs. https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2019-09/centreformh_a_new_approach_to_complex_needs_0.pdf
Department of Health and Social Care. Prime Minister pledges funding for cancer screening overhaul. The new NHS funding will replace MRI machines, CT scanners and breast screening equipment. The equipment will improve the quality of screening and speed of diagnosis, with clinicians finding the machines more effective and easier to use.


European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Improving healthcare quality in Europe. The reports seeks to provide an overall conceptual framework for understanding and applying strategies aimed at improving quality of care. It summarises evidence on different quality strategies and provides recommendations for their implementation.


Guardian. 250 million children worldwide forecast to be obese by 2030. Childhood obesity is rising exponentially worldwide as the relentless marketing of junk foods reaches around the globe and governments do too little to protect their children’s health, according to data shared with the Guardian. The number of obese children globally is predicted to reach 250 million by 2030, up from 150 million now.


King’s Fund. What is commissioning and how is it changing? Commissioning is the process by which health and care services are planned, purchased and monitored. The King’s Fund look at the commissioning process in more detail, the organisations involved and how it is changing.

https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/what-commissioning-and-how-it-changing

National Audit Office. Exiting the EU: supplying the health and social care sectors. This report examines the progress made by the Department – working with other government departments, NHS and social care providers, and with private sector suppliers – in implementing the Continuity of Supply Programme. It sets out the Department’s plan and records the progress made.


NHS Digital. Fall in coverage for all routine childhood vaccinations in England. Coverage for all routine childhood vaccinations administered to children under five decreased in England in 2018-19 compared to the previous year, a new report shows.


NHS England and NHS Improvement. Health infrastructure plan: a new, strategic approach to improving our hospitals and health infrastructure. The health infrastructure plan (HIP) will deliver a long-term, rolling five-year programme of investment in health infrastructure, including capital to: build new hospitals; modernise the primary care estate; improve mental health facilities; invest in new diagnostics and technology; and help eradicate critical safety issues in the NHS estate.


NHS England and NHS Improvement. The community mental health framework for adults and older adults. This framework, prepared together with the National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, describes how the NHS long-term plan’s vision for a place-based community mental health model
can be realised, and how community services should modernise to offer whole-person, whole-population health approaches, aligned with the new primary care networks.  

NHS England. Busiest day of the year for births. Thanks to a spike in conceptions over the Christmas holidays, around 2,000 babies are born on 26 September in England and Wales – more than any other day of the year – according to the Office for National Statistics.  

Nuffield Trust. Elective care quality watch. This latest indicator update looks at the quality of elective care. Care that is planned in advance is known as elective care. It involves specialist clinical care or surgery, generally following a referral from a GP or community health professional.  
https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/elective-care

Public Health England. Stoptober 2018: campaign evaluation. Stoptober is a major annual event to encourage smokers to quit for 28 days in October - with the aim of stopping smoking permanently. This report measures the impact of Stoptober in 2018. It aims to assess the scale of the campaign (reach and visibility), the degree to which people engage with different elements of Stoptober, and actions and behaviours generated by Stoptober.  


Royal Society of Tropical Medicine. What does the next 25 years hold for global health? This report documents the results of a survey of medical professionals from 79 countries. The survey respondents identified climate change, antimicrobial resistance and emerging epidemics as the top global health challenges for the next 25 years.  

WHO Europe. Improving healthcare quality in Europe: Characteristics, effectiveness and implementation of different strategies. The WHO’s European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the OECD have published this substantial piece (400+ pages) that summarises much of the evidence on quality improvement in health care.  

Patient safety

BBC News. Biggest NHS flu campaign under way. About 30 million people - nearly half the UK population - are being offered the flu vaccine, in the biggest winter vaccination campaign the NHS has seen. For the first time, all primary school pupils can have the vaccination free.  
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-49895681
BBC News. Drug exports restricted 'to protect NHS patients'. The UK government has announced a ban on some drug exports to protect NHS patients' access to medicines. The 24 medicines affected include hormone replacement therapy drugs, contraceptives and adrenaline pens. The move comes after a survey of local pharmacists found shortages of every major type of medicine in the past six months.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-49907056

BMA. Caring, supportive, collaborative: Doctors’ future vision for change in the NHS. This report draws on the experience and expertise of BMA members across all branches of medical practice in the UK. It outlines where the BMA believes changes are needed to ensure patient care is safe, to make the NHS a great place to work and to transform services for the better.

BMJ. Raising and responding to frontline concerns in health care. Frontline staff are well placed to identify failings in care, but speaking up requires a supportive organisational culture to be effective.
https://www.bmj.com/content/366/bmj.l4944

National Audit Office. Exiting the EU: supplying the health and social care sectors. There is a risk of delays to supplies for health and social care if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. Government has done an enormous amount to manage this risk, but the National Audit Office (NAO) highlights that there is still significant work to be done.

NIHR Signal. Better strategies are needed to reduce preventable patient harm in healthcare. About 6% of patients in healthcare settings internationally experience harm that could have been prevented. Around one in eight of these cases result in severe harm, causing permanent disability or death. This review provides the best evidence so far about the proportion of overall patient harm that could be prevented.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000825/better-strategies-are-needed-to-reduce-preventable-patient-harm/

SCIE. Safeguarding children in education resource. The new safeguarding in education section offers support to help schools, colleges and educational establishments to keep children and young adults safe, and improve how they respond to safeguarding concerns. It includes a new resource on helping teaching professionals to recognise types and indicators of abuse and neglect.
https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/children/education

Telegraph. 'Little progress' for NHS patient safety over past 20 years, says chief inspector of hospitals. “Little progress” has been made improving patient safety in the NHS over the past 20 years, the top health service watchdog has said. Serious accidents such as surgery on the wrong part of the body remain commonplace due to an “insidious” culture of defensiveness and blame, the Chief Inspector of Hospitals at the Care Quality Commission (CQC) said.

Evidence-based practice
Health Data Research UK. NHSX welcomes new health data research hubs. The seven new research hubs will focus on improving the lives of people with specific diseases, such as cancer, Crohn’s
disease and asthma. Patients, researchers and clinicians will work with companies in each hub to support research that aims to improve understanding of the disease.
https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/infrastructure/the-hubs/

NICE. Abortion care. This guideline covers care for women of any age who request an abortion. It aims to improve the organisation of services and make them easier for women to access. Detailed recommendations on conducting abortions at different gestational stages are also included, to ensure that women get the safest and most effective care possible.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng140

NICE. Pneumonia in adults: diagnosis and management. This guideline covers diagnosing and managing community- and hospital-acquired pneumonia in adults. It aims to improve accurate assessment and diagnosis of pneumonia to help guide antibiotic prescribing and ensure that people receive the right treatment.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg191

NICE. Cellulitis and erysipelas: antimicrobial prescribing. This guideline sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for adults, young people, children and babies aged 72 hours and over with cellulitis and erysipelas. It aims to optimise antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng141

NICE. NICEimpact: maternity and neonatal care. This report focuses on how NICE’s evidence-based guidance contributes to improvements in maternity and neonatal care. It finds that if all maternity units applied NICE’s recommendations on twin and triplet pregnancies, it could lead to 634 fewer emergency caesarean sections and 1,308 fewer neonatal admissions in England per year.

National Institute for Health Research. Type 2 diabetes can be reversed with a modest weight loss of 10% or more. Researchers at the University of Cambridge have found that people with type 2 diabetes who achieve modest weight loss of 10% or more in the first few years after being diagnosed have the greatest chance of seeing their disease go into remission.

Public Health England. Malaria prevention guidelines for travellers from the UK. In this update, Uzbekistan, Paraguay, Algeria and Argentina are declared free of malaria as per the World Health Organisation. Greater attention to application of insect repellent is urged, as there is evidence that many travellers do not apply it correctly.

Public Health England. Influenza: treatment and prophylaxis using anti-viral agents. In this update further information on the recommended dosing for renal dysfunction in adults and children is provided, as well additional information on antivirals and breastfeeding and management of neonates exposed to mothers with confirmed seasonal influenza.

Royal Osteoporosis Society. Effective secondary prevention of fragility fractures. Clinical standards for Fracture Liaison Services. As around 50% of people who experience a hip fracture have broken a
bone in the past, FLS represents an ideal opportunity for intervention in the journey to avert that hip fracture.

**Patient focus**

Centre for Mental Health. Life after loss. This is an economic evaluation of the baby loss charity Petals, which provides counselling to women who have experienced the death of a baby and their partners. The report highlights that specialist baby loss counselling is inexpensive, effective and reduces government expenditure. This is a rare instance where fiscal prudence and compassion converge.
https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/life-after-loss

CQC. Declare your care. Research reveals that young people (age 16 to 24) do not raise concerns about their care. They fear they will be seen as a troublemaker, or they don’t think it’ll make a difference. More young people have also experienced poor care when using mental health services.

Guardian. NHS body criticised over Experian patient checks scheme. A NHS body urged hospitals to work with the credit reference agency Experian to check whether patients could receive free treatment, in an effort to tackle health tourism. Documents show NHS Improvement admitting it had not carried out its own assessment of whether the move would break data protection rules.

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts. Penalty charge notices in healthcare. Penalty charge notices (PCNs) are supposed to discourage people from claiming free prescriptions or dental treatment when they are not entitled to do so. This report finds that the current PCN process penalises those who fail to navigate the complex exemption criteria and neglects clear evidence of abuse by repeat offenders. It concludes that the system requires a fundamental overhaul and is not fit for purpose.
https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmpubacc/2038/2038.pdf

National Cancer Patient Experience Survey. People’s experience of cancer care remains positive. The results of the 2018 national cancer patient experience survey revealed overall experience is very positive, with patients rating it at an average of 8.8 out of 10. This continues an improving trend from 8.74 in 2016 and 8.70 the previous year.
https://www.ncpes.co.uk/index.php/reports/2018-reports

NHS England. Improving uptake of diabetic eye screening in non-attenders. Diabetic retinopathy accounts for 4% of an estimated 1.93 million people living with sight loss in the UK and 10% of an estimated £2.99 billion of direct healthcare expenditure.
https://topol.hee.nhs.uk/topol-digital-fellowships/roxanne-crosby-nwaobi/

NHS England. 100 voices campaign: letter from Liz Nixon. This letter has been sent to all hospital eye services encouraging them to identify patients in local health economies who would like to tell their story of using hospital eye services since April 2018.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/100-voices-campaign-letter-from-liz-nixon/
NHS England. The journey to age equality. To mark the International Day of Older Persons, the National Clinical Director for Older People and Person-Centred Integrated Care looks at the need to reduce inequalities for the frail and elderly. 
https://www.england.nhs.uk/blog/the-journey-to-age-equality/


NHS England. NHS hospitals go back to the future for dementia care. NHS hospitals are going back to the future to help patients with dementia by decorating their wards, rooms and corridors in 1940s and 1950s style – creating a calming, familiar environment which can help jog memories, reduce anxiety and distress. https://www.england.nhs.uk/2019/09/nhs-hospitals-go-back-to-the-future-for-dementia-care/

NHS England. Patient experiences to inform redesign of ophthalmology services. To mark National Eye Health Week the Programme Lead for EyesWise discusses the need for promoting the importance of good eye health and the need for regular eye tests for all. https://www.england.nhs.uk/blog/patient-experiences-to-inform-redesign-of-ophthalmology-services/


NHS Improvement. Delivering same-sex accommodation. NHS Improvement has updated guidance to reflect current patient pathways, including further definition of what is and is not a mixed-sex accommodation breach and circumstances in which mixing may be justified. https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/delivering-same-sex-accommodation/

NIHR. Research impact. Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) is a national NIHR programme that funds research on a regional level through eight regional advisory panels. Panel members are recruited on an ongoing basis, and nurses are encouraged to apply. https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/join-us/

NIHR Signal. Diagnosis of delirium in hospitals can be improved by the 4 A’s test. A new shorter test for delirium appears helpful in assessing older people in hospital who may have the condition. For high-risk patients and those with sudden-onset confusion, these early results show that the 4 A’s test is a practical tool for initial assessment in time-pressured environments. It will need further testing in other settings. https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000821/delirium-assessment-in-hospitals-can-be-improved-by-the-4-as-test

Patient Information Forum. PIF Health and Digital Literacy Survey 2019. This survey looks at how health literacy and digital literacy needs are being addressed. The success of the NHS UK plan depends on all sectors providing information which support health and digital literacy needs. Patient
Information Forum’s new survey asks how these needs are being addressed and what is needed to improve.
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PIFhealthdigitaliteracy2019

Professional Record Standards Body. Patients took centre stage at PRSB’s September AGM. PRSB is ‘passionately committed’ to giving a voice to patients and carers. It is eager to know what health and social care information and believe should be collected and shared to help address their personal health and wellbeing goals. That’s why this year’s AGM had such a strong person focus, showcasing a range of patient views and putting them centre stage.

eHealth

BBC News. NHS Wales' 'outdated' IT systems face shake-up. Computer services in the NHS in Wales are to get a shake-up, along with £50m funding to speed up changes. It follows an all-party assembly report criticising "outdated" IT systems, a slow pace of change and failures having a "negative impact" on patients. A new chief digital officer for health and care will lead the project and act as a "champion".
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-49881267

Digital Health. Artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence (AI) has long been promoted as a tool which could transform the way clinicians work in the NHS. However there is an awareness that the space between the promise and the reality is often large. Kim Thomas reports on the realities and myths surrounding AI in healthcare.

Digital Health. Fitbit offers heart monitoring tool through new partnership with FibriCheck. Fitbit users can now check and share their heart and blood flow data with their doctor thanks to a new partnership with a heart monitoring app. Belgium based FibriCheck allows users to monitor heart rhythm abnormalities including atrial fibrillation.
https://www.digitalhealth.net/2019/09/fitbit-heart-monitoring-app/

Guardian. AI equal with human experts in medical diagnosis. The potential for artificial intelligence in healthcare has caused excitement, with advocates saying it will ease the strain on resources, free up time for doctor-patient interactions and even aid the development of tailored treatment. Last month the government announced £250m of funding for a new NHS artificial intelligence laboratory.

King’s Fund. The Learning Network. This learning network is designed to improve and promote collaborative working between care homes and the housing, health and social care sectors.
https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/courses/care-homes-housing-health-social-care

National Health Executive. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS FT launch new health innovation. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has launched a new innovation programme. Examples of projects it will be supporting include the UK’s largest study of wearable monitoring technology and the roll-out of the new Mum & Baby app.
http://www.nationalhealthexecutive.com/News/cw-innovation

NHS England & NHS Improvement. Technology enables Deaf people to access NHS 111. Technology is enabling the Deaf community to access NHS 111 when they need medical help urgently. Using a computer and webcam, or the InterpreterNow app on a smartphone or tablet, Deaf people can
make a video call to a British Sign Language interpreter. The interpreter then telephones an NHS 111 adviser and relays the conversation.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThsV80TcHWU&feature=youtu.be

Reform. Inclusive by default. As more public services are delivered digitally, there is an imperative to tackle the causes of digital exclusion. This report finds a lack of skills, motivation and the right infrastructure are some of the key factors that make digital exclusion more likely. In addition to providing alternative routes for those unable to access digital public services, it is essential that these barriers are overcome.
https://reform.uk/research/inclusive-default

Screen Shot. AI will soon be used to tackle home­less­ness. StreetLink, a homelessness charity that enables members of the public to connect people sleeping rough with local services that can support them, has recently been looking into how machine learning could help improve the decision-making process that goes on in homelessness support. Very soon, AI could decide what to do when passersby report to StreetLink as they spot a person sleeping on the streets.
https://screenshot-magazine.com/the-future/machine-learning-tackle-homelessness/

Staff focus
Department of Health and Social Care. NHS Pension Scheme: increased flexibility. The DHSC is consulting on a new set of proposals to offer senior clinicians more control over their pensions growth, so they can continue to provide the services that patients need. Senior NHS clinicians are concerned that pension tax charges are making them retire early or change their working habits.
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nhs-pension-scheme-increased-flexibility

Guardian. U-turn as ministers reconsider financial aid for student nurses. Ministers may reintroduce financial incentives to attract people into nursing to help the NHS tackle its serious and worsening lack of nurses. The health service in England’s shortage has spiralled to 40,000 vacancies since bursaries were abolished for would-be nurses and replaced with student loans in 2015.

Health Education England. Wellbeing guardians. HEE welcomes support for wellbeing guardians. A Wellbeing Guardian is a dedicated person who makes staff health and wellbeing a core priority and is trained to recognise and support GPs when they are experiencing difficulties.

Healthwatch. A response to the Royal College of Nursing’s campaign for safe staffing levels in England. “Safe staffing is also about ensuring the right skill mix. Healthwatch wants to see health and social care organisations getting the right balance of professional skills and experience in the workplace.”

JMIR. Effects of E-Learning in a Continuing Education Context on Nursing Care. E-learning is rapidly growing as an alternative way of delivering education in nursing. This study systematically summarize the qualitative and quantitative evidence regarding the effects of e-learning on nursing care among nurses in a continuing education context.
https://www.jmir.org/2019/10/e15118
King’s Fund. Inclusive leadership. Tracie Jolliff, Director of Inclusion at the NHS Leadership Academy, explains how inclusive leadership and cultures require personal dedication to change, as well as support and oversight at an organisational level. [https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2019/08/inclusive-leadership](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2019/08/inclusive-leadership)

King’s Fund. Building your authority: influencing beyond your role. We know that it is no longer enough just to have a good idea; now it’s more about how to work collaboratively with others to use that idea to create change. [https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/courses/building-your-authority](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/courses/building-your-authority)


NHS England and NHS Improvement. We are the NHS campaign shines light on nursing. NHS England and NHS Improvement have launched the next phase of ‘We are the NHS’. The campaign aims to increase the number of people considering a career in nursing and support those currently working as NHS nurses by shining a light on the incredible work they do, and their contribution to delivering The NHS Long Term Plan and NHS People Plan, released earlier this year. [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/nursing-careers](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/nursing-careers)

Nursing Notes. NHS calls for clarity on who is accountable for the nursing workforce. Following ongoing pressure from nursing unions, NHS England and NHS Improvement have called on the Government to clarify who is accountable for the nursing workforce and the chronic problems it’s currently facing. [https://nursingnotes.co.uk/nhs-calls-clarity-accountable-nursing-workforce/](https://nursingnotes.co.uk/nhs-calls-clarity-accountable-nursing-workforce/)

Nursing Notes. New hospitals are useless ‘without the staff to operate them’. The Government claims the new investment will allow the NHS to build “world-class facilities for patients and staff for the long term”, however healthcare leaders have warned that the additional funding is not enough. Experts have highlighted that the promised investments fail to address the issue of chronic underinvestment in the health services workforce. [https://nursingnotes.co.uk/hospitals-useless-without-staff-operate-them/](https://nursingnotes.co.uk/hospitals-useless-without-staff-operate-them/)

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Less than full time training: the trainee perspective. This report found that: doctors who worked LTFT were overburdened by administrative duties, proportionally more than full-time colleagues; two-thirds of trainees are considering LTFT training in the future; too few trainees are involved in working pattern planning; LTFT training is expensive; and there is not enough information about working LTFT. [http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/college/trainees-and-members-committee-launches-report-less-full-time-working](http://www.rcpe.ac.uk/college/trainees-and-members-committee-launches-report-less-full-time-working)