



# Quality and Safety Bulletin

Issue 128: 12 March 2020

## Welcome to the Quality and Safety eBulletin

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

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

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

## News story



### Corridor care

Our survey of emergency nursing staff in England reveals the difficulties of providing care to patients in cramped and unsuitable locations.

In January, more than 1,000 members of our Emergency Care Association took the time to give us their views on the extent of "corridor care" in England.

These detailed responses added to our understanding of the issue, how extensive this practice has become and how it impacts on nursing staff and patients.

The results show that providing care to hospital patients in corridors and other non-clinical areas is becoming normalised, with almost 90% of those surveyed saying the term "corridor nursing" is now being used at their trust. Nine out of 10 say the safety of patients is being compromised as a result.

See: [Corridor care](#)

## RCN highlights

Our campaign for safe and effective care took centre stage during a parliamentary debate on the nursing workforce shortage in England. The debate in Westminster Hall was brought forward by Mohammad Yasin, who is the MP for Bedford and an RCN nursing champion.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-safe-nurse-staffing-debate-highlights-key-rcn-concerns-030320>

Guernsey members vote to strike, but action is paused while talks continue. Nursing staff want pay parity with other public sector workers on the island. They're prepared to go on strike if their dispute with the States of Guernsey is not resolved.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-guernsey-members-vote-to-strike-but-action-is-paused-while-talks-continue-020320>

Ask your MP to attend important parliamentary debate on safe nurse staffing. We're urging members to contact their MP ahead of the debate on nursing shortages in England.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-ask-your-mp-to-attend-important-parliamentary-debate-on-safe-nurse-staffing-270220>

Recruiting more nursing staff should be a priority for Scottish Government spending. New polling suggests widespread concern that there are too few nursing staff to provide safe and effective care for the people of Scotland.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/recruiting-more-nursing-staff-27-feb-2020>

Coronavirus guidance for NHS trusts and health care staff. The RCN, alongside NHS Employers and other trade unions, has produced guidance to support the management of coronavirus.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-coronavirus-guidance-for-nhs-trusts-and-health-care-staff-270220>

RCN submits pre-budget asks for nursing. We want a meaningful pay rise for all nursing staff and a long-term funding settlement for public health and social care services based on population needs.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-rcn-submits-pre-budget-asks-for-nursing-270220>

'Corridor care' in hospitals becoming the new norm warns RCN. Our survey of emergency nursing staff in England reveals the difficulties of providing care to patients in cramped and unsuitable locations.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-corridor-care-in-hospitals-becoming-the-new-norm-warns-rcn-260220>

RCN members in Northern Ireland accept proposals on pay parity and safe staffing. Nursing staff have voted to accept an offer made in response to their historic strike action.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-rcn-members-in-northern-ireland-accept-proposals-on-pay-parity-and-safe-staffing-240220>

Partnership learning agreements. Partnership learning agreements exist in a wide variety of businesses and industries - from retail to engineering. In a nutshell, they are a formal arrangement between the RCN and the employer, providing a framework to establish and grow learning and development. Find out more.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/rcn-reps/learning-agreements>

RCN Foundation announces funding boost to Care Home Nurses Network. The RCN Foundation has announced a major funding boost to the Care Home Nurses Network launched last year by the Queen's Nursing Institute and the chief nursing officer.

<https://www.qni.org.uk/nursing-in-the-community/care-home-nurses-network/>

Submission of evidence to HM Treasury. The RCN has written to the Treasury ahead of the budget on 11 March 2020 outlining what investment is needed to tackle nursing workforce shortages across the UK.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-009-167>

RCN Blogs. Latest blogs include: Nursing gets its own year of celebration; Hard-working Europeans are not the enemy in Brexit and Safety valve - why more must be done to protect staff wellbeing.

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

RCN magazines. Latest news includes: Exhibition exploring history of emotions in nursing launches; Still time to nominate for the RCNi Nurse Awards; RCN suspends historic strike action in Northern Ireland; Members urged to complete staffing levels survey and Pay parity promised for nursing staff in Northern Ireland.

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

## Events

Comedians talk about their feelings, with Country Mile Comedy Club. 26 Mar 2020 18:00 - 21:00, 20 Cavendish Square, Marylebone, London, W1G 0RN. Our experiences with health care - from birth to death and everything in between - can provoke strong feelings. Our experiences with healthcare – from birth to death and everything in between – can provoke strong feelings. In the second Country Mile Comedy Club at the RCN, an exciting line-up of comedians explore their emotional encounters with health and illness.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/comedy-night-emotions>

History of Nursing Forum annual lecture 2020. 01 Apr 2020 17:30 - 19:30, University of Worcester, City Campus, Castle Street, Worcester, WR1 3AS. Christine Hallett's lecture will explore the work of reforming nurse, Ethel Gordon Fenwick (1857-1947), who led the campaign for nurse-regulation. It will also look more broadly at the changing nature of professional regulation for British nurses across a broad span of time from 1887 (the year the British Nurses' Association was founded) to the present day.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/honf-annual-lecture-2020>

Small changes, big differences. 03 Apr 2020 09:15 - 16:00, Plymouth Postgraduate Medical Centre, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, PL6 8DH. Health care workers have a unique role and responsibility to advocate, educate and lead action to mitigate risks associated with global temperature increases that offer benefits to improve the health and well-being of patients and citizens. This one day event will give delegates a deeper insight into the challenges of delivering sustainable health care, by focusing on small changes in clinical practice that when combined create significant change.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/uk-small-changes-030420>

RCN Congress. 7 – 11 June 2020, ACC, Liverpool. You can participate in the debates in the Main Hall, and we also have a selection of events running alongside this for you to attend, including learning opportunities and health and wellbeing sessions to help you relax. The exhibition runs from Sunday

evening to Wednesday afternoon, so do have a look to see what opportunities the exhibitors have on offer for you.

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

Nightingale 2020. 27 – 28 October, ExCel, London. Transforming the Impact of Nursing on Global Health and Care. This agenda-setting international conference will showcase how nurses and midwives can work collectively to transform global health and care for everyone, everywhere. Nightingale2020 will celebrate Florence Nightingale's legacy, put the voice of nurses at the heart of health policy and contribute to the World Health Organisation's work in the Year of the Nurse.

<https://www.nightingale2020.com/>

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

House of Commons Library. The Care Quality Commission. This briefing explains the statutory role and powers of the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC is responsible for the registration, inspection and monitoring of health and adult social care providers, including independent providers, under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8754>

National Audit Office. Gambling regulation: problem gambling and protecting vulnerable people. This report examines the extent to which gambling regulation effectively and proportionately protects people from gambling-related harms and addresses emerging risks, based on established principles of good regulation.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/gambling-regulation-problem-gambling-and-protecting-the-vulnerable/>

Guidance, innovation, tools

International Council of Nurses. ICN Covid-19 update: The ICN is in close contact with the World Health Organisation. New guidance on mental health and psychosocial support will help to alleviate effects of stress on hard-pressed staff.

<https://www.icn.ch/news/icn-covid-19-update-new-guidance-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-will-help-alleviate>

NHS England. Epilepsy toolkit. This toolkit contains practical advice and guidance on how local health systems can address high misdiagnosis rates, inaccurate epilepsy population estimates, increasing mortality attributed to epilepsy and a lack of optimal management strategies.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/rightcare/products/pathways/epilepsy-toolkit/>

NHS Improvement. Ambulance workforce improvement. A collection of best practice resources for ambulance workforce improvement, to enable services to deliver safe, high quality care to patients and service users.

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/ambulance-workforce-improvement/>

NIHR. Interactive learning package to support embedding research in the NHS. A new package of interactive learning resources is now available to support research delivery professionals in promoting research to colleagues across the NHS.

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-develops-interactive-learning-package-to-support-embedding-research-in-the-nhs/24219>

Reform. Driving innovation and long-term growth in the UK's life sciences sector. This paper discusses the steps the UK must take to remain a leader in life sciences and deliver on the government's vision for a thriving research and innovation-led health care economy.

<https://reform.uk/research/reformer-thoughts-driving-innovation-and-long-term-growth-uks-life-sciences-sector>

### Practice examples and case studies

Care Quality Commission. Sustaining improvement. In 2017 and 2018, the CQC reported on seven NHS acute and eight mental health trusts. These case studies draw on interviews with a range of trust staff and describe the approach taken to maintain high quality care.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/sustaining-improvement-stories-four-hospital-trusts>

King's Fund. Rough sleeping and health. Dena Pursell shares her experience of health care while sleeping rough and talks about her work as a homeless health care navigator.

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/audio-video/rough-sleeping-health-dena-pursell>

NHS Improvement. Leading with empathy. This case study outlines how East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust is using a modern, supportive approach to staff development to successfully combat longstanding recruitment challenges and rising rates of staff turnover and absence.

[https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/6477/Leading\\_with\\_Empathy\\_-\\_East\\_Lancashire\\_Hospitals.pdf](https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/6477/Leading_with_Empathy_-_East_Lancashire_Hospitals.pdf)

### Reports, commentary, statistics

Carnegie UK Trust. Race inequality in the workforce: exploring connections between work, ethnicity and mental health. This report presents new data from Next Steps, a longitudinal study of the 'millennial generation' in England. The work reveals persistent issues around the relationships between employment, ethnicity and mental health and underlines that there are enduring inequalities in the workplace between ethnic groups.

<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/news/bame-millennials-at-greater-risk-of-being-in-unstable-employment/>

Centre for Health Economics. Productivity of the English National Health Service: 2017/18 update. This report updates the Centre for Health Economics' time series of NHS productivity growth for the period 2016/17 to 2017/18. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, NHS productivity grew by 1.26 per cent when using the mixed measure of NHS input growth, which includes a direct (volume) growth measure for NHS staff and an indirect (based on expenditure data) growth measure for materials and capital.

<https://www.york.ac.uk/che/news/news2020/che-research-paper-171/>

Department of Health and Social Care. Coronavirus action plan: a guide to what you can expect across the UK. The current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak presents a significant challenge for the entire world. The UK government and the devolved administrations, including the health and

social care systems, have planned extensively over the years for an event like this, and the UK is therefore well prepared to respond in a way that offers substantial protection to the public.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan/coronavirus-action-plan-a-guide-to-what-you-can-expect-across-the-uk>

Department of Health and Social Care. UK strategy for rare diseases: 2020 update to the implementation plan for England. This paper contains a summary of the strategy's progress and actions for the government and partner organisations for 2020. It covers five main areas: empowering those affected by rare diseases; identifying and preventing rare diseases; diagnosis and early intervention; co-ordination of care; and the role of research.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-strategy-for-rare-diseases-2020-update-to-the-implementation-plan-for-england>

Guardian. 'Corridor nursing' becoming norm in packed A&Es, warn medics. A&E units are so overcrowded that growing numbers of patients have to be looked after in hospital corridors, warn nurses and doctors. There are rising concerns that the "shameful" trend means people stuck in corridors are not getting the care they need, or they may be even coming to harm.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/feb/26/corridor-nursing-becoming-norm-in-packed-aes-warn-medics>

Health Foundation. Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On. 'A healthy population is one of the nation's most important assets. The landmark Marmot review in 2010 showed striking differences in health between people living in the wealthiest and most deprived communities. This report looks at what progress has been made in addressing health inequalities in England.

[https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/Health%20Equity%20in%20England%20The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On\\_full%20report.pdf](https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/Health%20Equity%20in%20England%20The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_full%20report.pdf)

Health Foundation. Improving health by tackling market failure. This article explores what market failure is, its relevance for health, and how the government might intervene to improve the population's health. It looks at two examples: the success of reducing smoking and how a market failure approach to tackle obesity could be used.

<https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/blogs/improving-health-by-tackling-market-failure>

King's Fund. Delivering health and care for people who sleep rough: going above and beyond. People who sleep rough have some of the worst health outcomes in England. The King's Fund explores how four local areas are delivering effective health and care services to people sleeping rough and what other areas might be able to learn from them.

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/delivering-health-care-people-sleep-rough>

NHS England. Record high two million people at risk of Type 2 Diabetes. Around two million people in England are at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, the highest on record. The new figures come as the NHS ramps up efforts to treat, prevent and even put the illness in remission, as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/02/record-high-two-million-people-at-risk-of-type-2-diabetes/>

Nuffield Trust. Locked out? Prisoners' use of hospital care. It is widely known that prisons in England are crowded and facing severe difficulties, but the health and health care use of the prisoners within has received little attention. This study provides the most in-depth look to date at how prisoners' health needs are being met in hospital.

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/locked-out-prisoners-use-of-hospital-care>

Public Health England. Older people's hospital admissions in the last year of life. This report explores the relationship between hospital admissions and age, sex and cause of death in people aged 75 years and older, who comprise the majority approximately 69 per cent of all people who die.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/older-peoples-hospital-admissions-in-the-last-year-of-life>

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. State of child health in the UK. This report shows that for many measures of children's health and wellbeing, progress has stalled, or is in reverse – something rarely seen in high-income countries. The authors highlight that, even where there have been notable improvements in children's health, the UK is often lagging far behind other countries.

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news-events/news/uk-danger-failing-generation-children-young-people-says-new-report>

### Patient safety

BBC News. Coronavirus: drive through testing begins at Edinburgh hospital. A "drive through" testing centre for coronavirus has opened in Edinburgh amid warnings a positive case in Scotland is "inevitable". Patients with appointments are being tested for the virus in their cars at the Western General Hospital in the city.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-51678008>

Care Quality Commission. Promoting sexual safety through empowerment. This report looks at how adult social care services keep people safe from sexual incidents. It also looks at how services can support them to express their sexuality. Building a culture of openness in which people can talk about sexual safety and sexuality is the first step towards protecting and supporting them.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/build-culture-supports-peoples-sexual-needs-keeps-them-safe-harm-says-new-report>

Department of Health and Social Care. Coronavirus (COVID-19): latest information and advice. Information for the public on the outbreak of coronavirus, including the current situation in the UK and information about the virus and its symptoms.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Department of Health NI. New coronavirus advice service provision. Northern Ireland now has full access to the NHS 111 helpline service on coronavirus. People in Northern Ireland will have access to the same level of advice as citizens in England.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/new-coronavirus-advice-service-provision>

Guardian. What does it mean if coronavirus is declared a pandemic? Pandemics have nothing to do with the severity of a disease but are to do with its geographic spread. According to the World Health Organization, a pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/25/what-does-it-mean-if-coronavirus-is-declared-a-pandemic>

House of Commons Library. Child protection: duties to report concerns (England). This briefing paper sets out the current requirements on individuals and organisations regarding the reporting of known or suspected child abuse or neglect. It also provides information on the debate around whether a mandatory duty to report abuse or neglect should be introduced in England, and outlines the operation of such mandatory duties in other countries.

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN06793>

HSC Public Health Agency. Covid-19 update. The Public Health Agency is continuing working with partners across the UK including Public Health England, as well as the Department of Health and health trusts in Northern Ireland, and the health service in the Republic of Ireland, on the ongoing global novel coronavirus response.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

NHS England. Ligature and ligature point risk assessment tools and policies. A National Patient Safety Alert has been issued around ligature and ligature point risk assessment tools and policies. This alert is not available in the public domain and can only be accessed through the Central Alerting System website by registered users.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/03/ligature-and-ligature-point-risk-assessment-tools-and-policies/>

NHS England. Better Births four years on: a review of progress. The data shows that good progress is being made over time in reducing perinatal and maternal mortality, despite an overall increase in the complexity of care. However, the report finds a picture that is complex and in some areas lacks clarity, partly as a result of data quality, and partly as a result of the time lag in the data.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/better-births-four-years-on-a-review-of-progress/>

NIHR. Mobile app to determine the risk of preterm birth. When babies are born early, before 37 weeks of pregnancy, they are more likely to die, or have physical, developmental and emotional problems. This can result in an emotional and financial burden for families and substantial cost for the NHS and care services.

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/researchers-develop-mobile-app-to-determine-risk-of-preterm-birth/24233>

Patient Safety Learning Hub. Less than 1% of doctors feel NHS is well prepared for coronavirus, poll shows. Common concerns included difficulties coping with increased demand, a shortage of beds and poor staffing levels, according to the group who led the poll.

<https://www.pslhub.org/blogs/entry/593-less-than-1-of-doctors-feel-nhs-is-well-prepared-for-coronavirus-poll-shows/>

Patient Safety Learning Hub. Coronavirus 'drive through' testing service. The NHS is currently rolling out services on NHS sites to test people for coronavirus, including a new service now in action in west London, offering 'drive through' coronavirus testing.

<https://www.pslhub.org/blogs/entry/591-coronavirus-%E2%80%98drive-through%E2%80%99-testing-service/>

Science Based Medicine. Are medical errors really the third most common cause of death in the U.S.? It is concluded that while any number of deaths due to medical error is too high that it is nowhere near the third leading cause of death in the USA. Efforts to decrease the number should continue and interestingly the author states 'It can never be zero, given that medicine is a system run by human beings, who are inherently imperfect and sometimes make mistakes'.

<https://sciencebasedmedicine.org/medical-errors-2020/>

## Evidence-based practice

BBC Health. Fish oil supplements offer 'little or no benefit' against cancer. Taking omega-3 supplements offers "little to no" benefit against cancer, say experts. The research relates specifically to supplements, rather than omega-3 derived from eating fish, with experts still suggesting the latter is good for the heart, as well as general health.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51674313>



NICE. Neonatal parenteral nutrition. This guideline covers parenteral nutrition (intravenous feeding) for babies born preterm, up to 28 days after their due birth date and babies born at term, up to 28 days after their birth. Parenteral nutrition is often needed by preterm babies, critically ill babies, and babies who need surgery.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng154>

NICE. Intrapartum care: existing medical conditions and obstetric complications. This quality standard covers care during labour and birth for women who need extra support because they have a medical condition or complications in their current or previous pregnancy. It also covers women who have had no antenatal care. It describes high-quality care in priority areas for improvement.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs192>

NICE. Impetigo: antimicrobial prescribing. This guideline sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for adults, young people and children aged 72 hours and over. It aims to optimise antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic resistance and includes a summary of recommendations to support prescribing decisions.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng153>

NICE. Wireless device recommended for treating people with overactive bladder. People with an overactive bladder could have a rechargeable wireless device fitted to ease their condition. Axonics SNS has potential to save the NHS around £6,200 per patient if the device lasts more than six years.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/wireless-device-recommended-for-treating-people-with-overactive-bladder>

NICE Talks. Should a chronic condition, such as type 1 diabetes, prevent regular exercise? Should a chronic condition, such as type 1 diabetes, prevent regular exercise? NICE speaks with Chris Bright who has lived with type 1 diabetes for 20 years, Professor Partha Kar, National Specialty Advisor for Diabetes with NHS England and chiropractor Peter Dixon, President of the Royal College of Chiropractors.

<https://soundcloud.com/nicecomms/nice-talks-feb-2020/s-dpmxl>

NIHR. First new cough treatment in 50 years as trials show significant reduction in symptoms. Researchers from the University of Manchester have announced that a new drug has been shown to reduce symptoms of chronic cough with minimal side effects. If licenced, this will be the first new cough drug in 50 years and offers hope to the millions of people living with chronic cough for whom few, if any, effective treatments exist.

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/first-new-cough-treatment-in-50-years-as-trials-show-significant-reduction-in-symptoms/24200>

NIHR My Signals Collection. Depression. In My Signals, health and social care staff and service users say what research is important to them and why they feel others need to know about it. In this collection, nine mental health practitioners and members of the public say which Signals have interested them most.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/highlight-004331/mysignals-depression>

NIHR Signal. A lifestyle change programme not effective for those at risk of heart disease or stroke. Behavioural change interventions can be effective in some circumstances, but the results from this trial underline the importance of designing the right intervention for the right group of patients. Despite their risk, some participants may not have had poor diet or activity levels, limiting the scope of this study to show an effect from the intervention.

<https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000888/lifestyle-change-programme-not-effective-for-those-at-risk-of-heart-disease-or-stroke>

Public Health England. COVID-19: guidance for health professionals. PHE has published a suite of guidance for health professionals in clinical settings, as well as 4 additional pieces of guidance tailored for non-clinical settings including: educational settings, transport sector, social or community care and residential settings and employers and businesses.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

SIGN. Delirium. This booklet describes recommendations in a clinical guideline, produced by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), about how to reduce the risk of delirium and how to manage it when it occurs in adults. <https://www.sign.ac.uk/pat157-delirium>

WHO. UN releases US\$15 million to help vulnerable countries battle the spread of coronavirus. The announcement came as the World Health Organization (WHO) upgraded the global risk of the coronavirus outbreak to "very high" – its top level of risk assessment. The WHO has said there is still a chance of containing the virus if its chain of transmission is broken.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/01-03-2020-un-releases-us-15-million-to-help-vulnerable-countries-battle-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus>

### Patient focus

BBC News. Poorest women's life expectancy declines, finds report. Life expectancy among women living in the poorest communities in England has declined since 2011, says a report warning of growing health inequalities. Overall, life expectancy growth has stalled over the past decade - for the first time in 100 years.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51619608>

Design Council. Transform ageing report: supporting people in later life through social entrepreneurship, community and design. The Transform Ageing programme is a community and design-led programme delivered through a partnership led by the Design Council that aims to improve people's experience of ageing. This summary outlines the key insights, learning and evaluation from the programme.

<https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/resources/report/transform-ageing-final-report-executive-summary>

Guardian. Two million in UK at risk of type 2 diabetes as obesity crisis grows. A record number of people are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes, increasing their chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke. A "growing obesity crisis" has led to nearly 2 million people in England being exposed to the condition that causes the level of sugar in the blood to become too high.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/feb/24/type-2-diabetes-uk-obesity-crisis-nhs>

Health Foundation. Common ambition. The Health Foundation has launched an exciting new £2.1m programme for partnerships developing collaborative communities where people, families, health care professionals and researchers work together to improve health care. This programme is open for application until 20 March 2020.

<https://www.health.org.uk/funding-and-partnerships/programmes/common-ambition>

NHS England. NHS 111 Online To Help People With Coronavirus. A new NHS 111 online service has been put in place to help people get quick advice about coronavirus, as enquiries to the health service about the outbreak have surged. More than 35,000 people used the site in a single day over the weekend to get help and advice.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/03/nhs-111-online-to-help-people-with-coronavirus/>

NHS Providers. Specialised services: transforming delivery for patients. This report shows how NHS specialised services are adapting to a changing environment to deliver world-class and innovative care for patients and service users. It shares the opinions of leaders from trusts and the wider health and care sector on key issues and looks at the key role specialised services play in delivering the ambitions of the long-term plan.

<https://nhsproviders.org/news-blogs/news/nhs-specialised-services-are-driving-innovation-and-transforming-how-they-deliver-care-for-patients>

Professional Record Standards Body. Please, write to me. Following the 'Please write to me' campaign, the PRSB has produced a short film about how it's working in action. The film features both doctors and patients speaking about the benefits of writing outpatient letters directly to patients after hospital visits using language that is easy to understand.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eko1h5p0NB4&feature=youtu.be>

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Role and principles of reablement. This briefing is an overview of the role and principles of reablement in the social care sector. Reablement is a strengths-based, person-centred approach that promotes and maximises independence and wellbeing.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/reablement/what-is/principles-of-reablement>

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Evaluating personalised care. This guide aims to help practitioners measure and evaluate the impact of personalised care programmes, initiatives or new ways of working. It is for anyone who is involved in delivering a personalised care intervention or initiative at a local level.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/person-centred-care/evaluating-personalised-care>

## eHealth

BBC News. Scientists discover powerful antibiotic using AI. In a world first, scientists have discovered a new type of antibiotic using artificial intelligence (AI). It has been heralded by experts as a major breakthrough in the fight against the growing problem of drug resistance. A powerful algorithm was used to analyse more than one hundred million chemical compounds in a matter of days.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51586010>

Digital Health. Mental health trust introduces virtual reality for phobia treatment. Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) is using virtual reality headsets to help treat patients suffering from a range of phobias from fear of needles, heights, flying and spiders to conditions such as agoraphobia and claustrophobia.

<https://www.digitalhealth.net/2020/02/mental-health-trust-introduces-virtual-reality-for-phobia-treatment/>

Good Governance Institute. Unleashing the digital premium. Legrand Assisted Living & Health Care commissioned the Good Governance Institute to develop a national White Paper exploring the digital premium in health, care and housing. The digital premium is defined as the benefit gained through proper implementation of digital technology to the individual, locality and system.

<https://www.good-governance.org.uk/services/unleashing-the-digital-premium/>

NHSX. NHS Digital Health Technology Standard (Draft). To improve the way the NHS assesses technologies such as digital health apps and tools, NHSX has developed a draft Digital Health Technology Standard. Based on existing industry and health standards, it aims to streamline and

speed up how health technologies are reviewed and commissioned for use by the NHS and social care. Share your feedback by 22 April 2020.

[https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/assets/NHS\\_Digital\\_Health\\_Technology\\_Standard\\_draft.pdf](https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/assets/NHS_Digital_Health_Technology_Standard_draft.pdf)

NIHR. Mobile app to determine the risk of preterm birth. When babies are born early, before 37 weeks of pregnancy, they are more likely to die, or have physical, developmental and emotional problems. This can result in an emotional and financial burden for families and substantial cost for the NHS and care services.

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/researchers-develop-mobile-app-to-determine-risk-of-preterm-birth/24233>

Professional Record Standards Body. Standards in action: electronic notification helps GPs track flu vaccine uptake. Doctors will be able to quickly identify patients who have not had their flu vaccination, thanks to a new NHS Digital scheme which uses PRSB standards to send vaccine information electronically from pharmacies to GP practices.

<https://theprsb.org/2020/02/standards-in-action-electronic-notification-helps-gps-track-flu-vaccine-uptake/>

Professional Record Standards Body. Whats the future for apps and AI? Apps and artificial intelligence are a rapidly developing part of healthcare. In this podcast, Emma Robertson, who has been living with metastatic breast cancer for five years. She believes apps and AI have the power to help people gain more control over their health, but that developers need to be aware of certain risks and understand the different needs of patients.

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

Understanding patient data. Accountability, transparency and public participation must be established for third-party use of NHS data. New research shows that the public will only support third parties using NHS-held health data when there is benefit to patients across the UK, rather than short-term financial gain for the NHS. Benefits to patients includes things like improving disease detection or developing new medicines and treatments.

<https://understandingpatientdata.org.uk/news/accountability-transparency-and-public-participation-must-be-established-third-party-use-nhs>

## Staff focus

BBC News. Health unions vote to accept government pay offer. NI's largest health unions have agreed a way forward with the Department of Health over pay parity. Unison, Unite and the Royal College of Nursing had staged industrial action for several months in protest over pay and staffing.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-51611028>

BMJ Quality and Safety. Randomised controlled trial of a theory-based intervention to prompt front-line staff to take up the seasonal influenza vaccine. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of reminder letters informed by social normative theory (a type of 'nudge theory') on uptake of seasonal influenza vaccination by front-line hospital staff.

<https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/29/3/189>

Department of Health and Social Care. Nurse numbers increase by 8,570 in the past year. The number of nurses has gone up as the government works to increase nursing numbers in the NHS by 50,000 in the next five years. Since 2010, there have been increases of more than 20,000 more doctors, 18,500 more nurses, midwives and health visitors, and 4,900 more paramedics.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nurse-numbers-increase-by-8-570-in-the-past-year>

Department of Health and Social Care. 'We are the NHS' campaign has launched. The DHSC has launched a recruitment campaign to encourage people to consider a career as an Allied Health Professional or nurse in the NHS. The campaign targets the AHP roles identified as being the most in need based on the NHS Long Term Plan and those in hard to fill roles. The campaign also targets all nursing roles.

<https://engage.dhsc.gov.uk/ournhs/nhscareers/>

Guardian. Majority of retired NHS staff don't want to return to tackle Covid-19 crisis. Scores of retired NHS doctors and nurses have told the Guardian that they are against returning to work to help tackle coronavirus, with many saying it would threaten their physical and mental health.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/04/majority-of-retired-nhs-staff-dont-want-to-return-to-tackle-covid-19-crisis>

Health Foundation. Valuing the health and wellbeing of lower paid NHS staff. Last week saw the publication of the NHS staff survey 2019. The results show more staff reporting work-related health problems such as musculoskeletal problems and stress compared to 2018, a continuation of the same trend since 2016. It is clear the NHS still needs to do much more to improve the health and wellbeing of its staff. <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/blogs/valuing-the-health-and-wellbeing-of-lower-paid-nhs-staff>

National Audit Office. The NHS nursing workforce. This report looks at the scale of the NHS nursing workforce challenge; the challenges to the main entry routes to NHS nursing and more general workforce-related challenges that any future plans will need to address; and the progress made on the People Plan.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/nhs-nursing-workforce/>

NHS Digital. NHS vacancy statistics England Feb 2015-December 2019. Due to current resource constraints and organisational changes at NHS Digital, the Workforce Team are having to focus on priority areas of work whilst new and additional requests for work continue to grow. Therefore, during this period of change, the scope of the next two publications in the series (due for release at the end of November 2019 and February 2020) will be considerably reduced.

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-vacancies-survey/february-2015---december-2019-experimental-statistics>

NHS Employers. An inclusive approach to disability leave. This briefing provides an explanation of the differences between disability leave and disability-related sickness absence. It highlights the benefits of having a disability leave policy and shares good practice examples from other NHS trusts, along with links to resources providing further support.

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/retention-and-staff-experience/diversity-and-inclusion/policy-and-guidance/disability/reasonable-adjustments-in-the-workplace/an-inclusive-approach-to-disability-leave>

NHS Employers. New NHS staff council guidance: Covid-19. The NHS Staff Council has jointly agreed a statement on good partnership working and issues to consider when developing local plans to combat coronavirus (Covid-19).

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/news/2020/02/new-nhs-staff-council-guidance-covid19>

NHS Employers. Guidance published for staff unable to return to china due to coronavirus travel restrictions. The government has published guidance for individuals in the UK who are unable to return home to China due to the coronavirus outbreak. NHS organisations may have staff who require support if they fall into the categories below.

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/news/2020/02/government-guidance-published-on-staff-unable-to-return-home-due-to-coronavirus-travel-restrictions>

NHS England. Raising awareness of self-care. NHS England has developed an e-learning programme with Health Education England and the Self Care Forum to help GPs, nurses and community pharmacists advise patients and carers on managing and treating minor health conditions themselves.

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/successful-self-care-aware-consultations/>

NHS England. NHS staff morale improves but too many facing abuse. NHS staff say they are now happier and more likely to recommend their organisation as a place to work than last year, but too many still experience unacceptable abuse from patients and the public.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/02/nhs-staff-morale-improves-but-too-many-facing-abuse/>

NHS Improvement. Ambulance workforce improvement. A collection of best practice resources for ambulance workforce improvement, to enable services to deliver safe, high quality care to patients and service users.

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/ambulance-workforce-improvement/>

Queen's Nursing Institute. New Film Inspires District Nursing Careers. A new film aimed at encouraging more people to consider a career in community nursing has been launched. The film, Nursing in the Community, was commissioned by Health Education England (HEE) and made by the QNI and creative agency, Mother. Since its launch in January, it has been viewed over 20,000 times.

<https://www.qni.org.uk/news-and-events/news/new-film-inspires-district-nursing-careers/>

RCN. Coronavirus guidance for NHS trusts and health care staff. The RCN, alongside NHS Employers and other trade unions, has produced guidance to support the management of coronavirus.

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-coronavirus-guidance-for-nhs-trusts-and-health-care-staff-270220>