Quality and Safety Bulletin

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

Claire Constable, Sarah-Jane Raybone and Ross Scrivener
RCN Nursing Department

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

Public Mental Health

Our mental wellbeing shapes our quality of life and the capacity to cope with life's ups and downs.

It is protective against physical illness, social inequalities and unhealthy lifestyles.

All nurses need to be working in ways that promote parity of esteem - that means mental health needs must be valued equally with physical health needs.

See: Public Mental Health

RCN highlights
RCN calls on supermarkets to support nursing staff throughout COVID-19 pandemic. In an open letter to supermarket bosses we explain the reality of health care professionals being faced with empty shelves, unable to buy even the most basic foods.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/rcn-calls-on-supermarkets-to-support-nursing-staff-throughout-covid-19-pandemic

COVID-19 (coronavirus) FAQs. An advice guide covering our most frequently asked questions about COVID-19 (coronavirus) and your rights in the workplace.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-help/rcn-advice/covid-19

Coronavirus and your finances. Financial advice and guidance for members affected by Covid-19. If you are struggling financially directly, or indirectly, as a result of the Covid-19 virus, this page will give you some guidance on entitlements and support that may be available to you.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-help/member-support-services/welfare-service/COVID-19-and-your-finances

COVID-19: actions announced to expand the nursing workforce. The government has confirmed new measures to expand the nursing workforce to help manage the treatment of COVID-19. These have been confirmed in a joint statement issued by the NMC, chief nursing officers, Council of Deans of Health, the Department of Health and Social Care, royal colleges and trade unions.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-covid-19-actions-announced-to-expand-the-nursing-workforce-190320

COVID advice for members. Find information and resources to support your understanding and management of COVID-19.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/covid-19

Want to join our campaign to end the nursing workforce crisis in England? Sign up to become an e-campaigner to help tell decision makers why #safestaffingsaveslives
https://www.rcn.org.uk/join-the-rcn/become-an-e-campaigner

International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. Find out how we are celebrating this year.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/international-year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife

RCN responds to budget promises on health and coronavirus. We are calling for the government to support existing and returning NHS staff with adequate resources as coronavirus continues.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-rcn-response-to-budget-statement-coronavirus-110320

Safe nurse staffing debate highlights key RCN concerns. Our campaign for safe and effective care took centre stage during a parliamentary debate on the nursing workforce shortage in England.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/uk-safe-nurse-staffing-debate-highlights-key-rcn-concerns-030320

Emotionally demanding. Rachael McIlroy, RCN Senior Research Lead, shines a light on a key theme of the latest RCN employment survey: the emotional labour of nursing work.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines/bulletin/2020/march/emotionally-demanding

RCN Blogs. Latest blogs include: A good night's rest is essential for health and well-being; Delivering a Developing Leadership Programme in a Mid Yorkshire Trust; and Mind the Gap - Is healthcare leading the way on addressing the issue of gender equality?
https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/blogs

RCN magazines. Latest news includes: Budget promises coronavirus measures; Safe nurse staffing debate highlights key RCN concerns; Guernsey members vote to strike, but action is paused while

talks continue; Coronavirus guidance for NHS trusts and health care staff and RCN submits pre-budget asks for nursing.
https://www.rcn.org.uk/magazines

Quality improvement

Department of Health and Social Care. Public health grants to local authorities: 2020 to 2021. The public health allocations and monetary conditions for local authorities to improve health in local populations.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2020-to-2021

Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership. New audit reports published. HQIP has published reports on adult asthma and COPD, paediatric diabetes and inpatient falls.
https://www.hqip.org.uk/resources/?fwp_resource_type=reports#.XnONU4j7RPY

Guidance, innovation, tools

Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England. New guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection. Next stage of COVID-19 public information campaign highlights guidance for households with possible infection.
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-for-households-with-possible-covid-19-infection

Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England. Government publishes updated COVID-19 industry guidance. New and updated industry guidance published on limiting the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), following the shift to the 'delay' phase of the action plan.
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-updated-covid-19-industry-guidance

Healthy London Network. What children and young people need from services. Research by the AYPH shows what this group wants from local services and how they can best be engaged with their development. A workforce model and case studies provide tools for PCNs to draw on as they provide an all-ages approach to local care.
https://www.healthylondon.org/resource/primary-care-children-young-peoples-toolkit/primarycarenetworks/

Nuffield Trust. Achieving scale and spread: learning for innovators and policy-makers. In recent years, a significant number of innovators have forged ways to scale and spread innovation in the NHS. However, despite some existing work in this area, less is known about how to achieve greater scale and spread beyond early adopters.
https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/achieving-scale-and-spread-learning-for-innovators-and-policy-makers

Public Health England. COVID-19: residential care, supported living and home care guidance. Guidance for providers of residential care, supported living and home care, in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance sets out: how to maintain delivery of care during an outbreak or widespread transmission of COVID-19; and what to do if care workers or individuals being cared for have symptoms of COVID-19.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-adult-social-care-guidance-to-protect-the-most-vulnerable-against-covid-19

Public Health England. Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults. This guidance is for everyone. It advises on social distancing measures we should all be taking to reduce social interaction between people in order to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). It is intended for use in situations where people are living in their own homes, with or without additional support from friends, family and carers.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in pregnancy: information for healthcare professionals. The guidance covers the most up-to-date advice on how coronavirus affects pregnant women and their unborn babies, how labour and birth should be managed in women with suspected or confirmed coronavirus, as well as information on neonatal care and infant feeding.
https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/news/national-guidance-on-managing-coronavirus-infection-in-pregnancy-published/

Social Care Institute for Excellence. Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for social care. Advice for councils and care providers as the Government works to delay the spread of COVID-19. There is specific residential care, supported living, home care and social distancing guidance.
https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19

Practice examples and case studies

Soundcloud. PPC- Collaboration: don't underestimate what it takes. It takes work to work together. Collaboration won't create automatic benefits – or any benefits if it gets off on the wrong foot. Working together, particularly with organisations that don't necessarily share your agenda, demands thought and a certain amount of preparation.
https://soundcloud.com/pcc_nhs/polly-goodwin-preparing-to-collaborate

Reports, commentary, statistics

All Party Parliamentary Group for Longevity. The health of the nation: a strategy for healthier longer lives. This report aims to help set the UK on a clear path to achieve the government's goal 'for everyone to have five extra years of healthy, independent life by 2035'. It proposes policy and cross-sector collaboration to narrow the life expectancy gap between the richest and poorest.
https://appg-longevity.org/events-publications

BBC News. Coronavirus: Will NHS buckle under the strain? The UK is braced for an epidemic of coronavirus cases, with health officials warning widespread transmission is now "highly likely". If this happens, many will need hospital treatment. BBC News Online asks will the NHS be able to cope?
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51714498

Centre for Ageing Better. Home and dry: the need for decent homes in later life. This report reveals that more than 2 million over-55s are living in a home that endangers their health or wellbeing. The report into non-decent housing in England found that more than 4.3 million homes in England don't meet basic standards of decency, most commonly because of the presence of a serious hazard to their occupants' health or safety.

https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/publications/home-and-dry-need-decent-homes-later-life

Department of Health and Social Care. HIV drug PrEP to be available across England. PrEP will be routinely available across England as part of the government's aim to end HIV transmission by 2030.
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiv-drug-prep-to-be-available-across-england

Health Foundation. Common ambition. A programme for partnerships developing collaborative communities where people, families, health care professionals and researchers work together to improve health care.
https://www.health.org.uk/funding-and-partnerships/programmes/common-ambition

NHS England. NHS to ramp up coronavirus testing labs. The NHS with Public Health England (PHE) is undertaking a significant expansion of coronavirus testing, with enhanced labs helping the health service carry out 10,000 tests daily.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/03/nhs-to-ramp-up-coronavirus-testing-labs/

Onward. Repairing our social fabric: towards a new understanding of community strength. The purpose of Onward's Repairing our Social Fabric programme is to build a comprehensive understanding of the state of community in Britain, our recent past and how local communities exist today. This report introduces the programme, the approaches that are being taken, and some of the key questions to be answered.
https://www.ukonward.com/thepoliticsofbelonging/

Race Equality Foundation. Racial disparities in mental health: literature and evidence review. This report draws on the most recent published research from the past five years, together with insights from two events and conversations across the sector. The report covers prevalence, access, assessment, treatment and recovery. It also sets out recommendations to health agencies, professionals and the voluntary sector.
https://raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/health-care/mental-health-report-published/

Patient safety

Care Quality Commission. CQC briefing on improving safety in NHS maternity services. Greater national focus on the safety of maternity care has helped to drive improvements for women and their families.
https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/cqc-briefing-improving-safety-nhs-maternity-services

Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England. Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK government response. Latest updates.
https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England. Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases and risk in the UK. Find out the number of cases and risk level in the UK, what to do if you have symptoms, and what the government is doing about the virus.
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, Department of Health and Social Care, and Public Health England. COVID-19 guidance for mass gatherings. The Government has published its latest guidance on social distancing in relation to COVID-19.
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-mass-gatherings

Guardian. NHS hospitals likened to war zones as doctors prepare to make grim decisions. NHS hospitals are in urgent need of ventilators and are approaching full capacity because of the Covid-19 outbreak, which will increasingly force doctors to make tough decisions about which patients to treat, the British Medical Association has warned.
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/hospitals-likened-to-war-zones-as-doctors-prepare-to-make-grim-decisions

House of Commons Library. Child protection: Duties to report concerns. This 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://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06793/

International Journal for Equity in Health. Patient safety in marginalised groups. Marginalised groups ('populations outside of mainstream society') experience severe health inequities, as well as increased risk of experiencing patient safety incidents.
https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-019-1103-2

Journal of Patient Safety. Systemic Causes of In-Hospital Intravenous Medication Errors. Delivery of intravenous medications in hospitals is a complex process posing to systemic risks for errors. The aim of this study was to identify systemic causes of in-hospital intravenous medication errors.
https://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/Systemic_Causes_of_In_Hospital_Intravenous.99231.aspx

International Journal for Quality in Healthcare. Using Safety and resilient health care principles to learn from never events. This article aims to conduct a secondary analysis of root cause analysis (RCA) reports of Never Events to determine whether and how Safety-II/resilient healthcare principles could contribute to improving the quality of investigation reports and therefore preventing future Never Events.
https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/intqhc/mzaa009/5805354

Nursing and Midwifery Council. How to keep safe when getting medicines or treatment online. In partnership with the General Pharmaceutical Council and other UK health organisations, the NMC helped to launch a new guide for people to make sure that medicines or treatment they get online are safe and right for them.
https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/news-and-updates/keep-safe-when-getting-medicines-or-treatment-online/

Welsh Government. COVID-19 advice. Advice including who to contact if you are concerned about coronavirus (COVID-19).
https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-advice

Evidence-based practice

NICE. Coronavirus (COVID-19). NICE is supporting the NHS and social care to respond quickly to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. They have brought together information that may help you.
https://www.nice.org.uk/covid-19

NICE. Tinnitus. Assessment and management. This guideline covers the assessment, investigation and management of tinnitus in primary, community and secondary care. It offers advice to

healthcare professionals on supporting people presenting with tinnitus and on when to refer for specialist assessment and management.
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng155

NICE. Around 10,000 people could benefit from new migraine drug as NICE says it's cost-effective. NICE has published final draft guidance which recommends fremanezumab (also called Ajovy and made by Teva Pharmaceuticals) for preventing chronic migraine.
https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/around-10-000-people-could-benefit-from-new-migraine-drug-as-nice-says-it-s-cost-effective

NIHR. COVID-19. Department of Health and Social Care issues guidance on the impact on COVID-19 on research funded or supported by NIHR. The NIHR community must prioritise nationally-sponsored COVID-19 research activity, a key element of the Government's overall response.
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/dhsc-issues-guidance-on-the-impact-on-covid-19-on-research-funded-or-supported-by-nihr/24469

NIHR. 5 Ways Research Could Save the NHS Money. This highlight features five carefully selected NIHR Signals that show how research could help to save the NHS money. This collection covers a range of treatments and initiatives that are cost effective for the NHS - with the savings shown in shareable infographics.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/highlight-004333/5-ways-research-could-save-the-nhs-money

NIHR. Risk of death from stroke falls by 24%. The risk of death and disability after a stroke fell significantly between 2000 and 2015 and an estimated 6,300 more patients annually are surviving their stroke, according to research supported by the NIHR.
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/risk-of-death-from-stroke-falls-by-24/24402

NIHR. UK Government commits £12million to research into preventable diseases. The UK Government has committed an extra £12million to the National Institute for Health Research in 2020/21 for research into preventable diseases. The additional investment will allow the NIHR to improve understanding of how to reduce the burden of preventable illness and spread the distribution of health and care research expertise across the country.
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/uk-government-commits-12million-to-research-into-preventable-diseases/24388

NIHR Signal. Using wires to fix wrist fracture has good long-term outcome. Fixing a displaced broken wrist with wires is as effective as fixation with locking plates in the long term. Wrist function and pain continue to improve in the five years following either operation, with no evidence of a difference between the two treatments.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000891/using-wires-to-fix-wrist-fracture-has-good-long-term-outcome

NIHR Signal. Conventional fillings may not add much to standard prevention for decay in baby teeth. Sealing in decay, improving tooth hygiene and using conventional fillings all work to prevent future dental pain and infection for children with decay in baby teeth. The approaches are equally acceptable to children and parents.
https://discover.dc.nihr.ac.uk/content/signal-000892/conventional-fillings-for-decay-in-baby-teeth-may-not-add-much-to-standard-prevention

Patient focus

Centre for Ageing Better. Home and dry: the need for better homes in later life. The Centre for Ageing Better and Care & Repair England's new report reveals that over two million over-55s are living in a home that endangers their health or wellbeing.
https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/publications/home-and-dry-need-decent-homes-later-life

Guardian Health. How pets can improve mental health. Canine companions trigger similar neural pathways to the parent-baby bond and reduce loneliness and depression. Now new pet therapy trials are reporting dramatic effects.
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/17/dogs-have-a-magic-effect-the-power-of-pets-on-our-mental-health

Healthy London Network. What children and young people need from services. Research by the AYPH shows what this group wants from local services and how they can best be engaged with their development. A workforce model and case studies provide tools for PCNs to draw on as they provide an all-ages approach to local care.
https://www.healthylondon.org/resource/primary-care-children-young-peoples-toolkit/primarycarenetworks/

What Works Centre for Wellbeing. What interventions improve college and university students' mental health and wellbeing? A review of review-level evidence. This review of 23 evidence reviews published over the past 20 years establishes what is known about effective ways to improve student mental health and wellbeing. It sets out out what works and what can be done to fill the evidence gaps.
https://whatworkswellbeing.org/resources/student-mental-health-review-of-reviews/

eHealth

Digital Health. First wave of Digital Aspirants announced. Twenty-three trusts have been selected in the first wave of the newly announced Digital Aspirant programme, Digital Health News can exclusively reveal. The trusts will benefit from £28 million between them in the first year, NHSX confirmed.
https://www.digitalhealth.net/2020/03/exclusive-first-wave-of-digital-aspirants-announced/

Digital Health. TechUK president: Diversity in tech will underpin the future of the NHS. Speaking at London Olympia on 3 March, de Rojas said that under-representation of women and minority groups across healthcare risked unconscious bias being built into new technologies, which posed a greater risk as the health sector becomes more dependent on new technology to cope with increasing demands.
https://www.digitalhealth.net/2020/03/techuk-president-diversity-in-tech-will-underpin-the-future-of-the-nhs/

Digital Health. GPs urged to go digital to prevent spread of coronavirus. GP practices across the country have been advised to assess patients online or via telephone and video appointments to mitigate the potential spread of coronavirus.
https://www.digitalhealth.net/2020/03/gps-urged-to-go-digital-to-prevent-spread-of-coronavirus/

Digital Health. Coronavirus spread has 'kicked NHS forward in adopting digital solutions'. The rapid spread of coronavirus has given the NHS a "kick forward" in the need to accelerate technology and ensure staff are digitally prepared, a GP has said.

https://www.digitalhealth.net/2020/03/coronavirus-spread-has-kicked-nhs-forward-in-adopting-digital-solutions/

NHS Digital. NHS unveils package of measures to help people find trusted health information online. It has worked with Google to ensure it provides the public in the UK with easy access to NHS information about more than 250 of the most searched for health conditions on the NHS website, through new Knowledge Panels.
https://digital.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/google-knowledge-panels

NHS England. COVID-19 fake news. The NHS has unveiled a package of measures in the battle against coronavirus fake news – working with Google, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook – to help the public get easy access to accurate NHS information and avoid myths and misinformation.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/03/nhs-takes-action-against-coronavirus-fake-news-online/

NHSX. Developing a plan for tech in health and care. NHSX is seeking views of its Tech Plan and how NHSX can best support the health and care system to deliver the NHS long-term plan and the Department of Health and Social Care's technology policy (The Future of Healthcare), as well as the forthcoming NHS People Plan. People are invited to register to participate and share their views.
https://jointheconversation.scwcsu.nhs.uk/tech-plan

NICE. NICE publishes its first medtech briefing on artificial intelligence software. A piece of software used to assess CT images of people with suspected brain abnormalities is the first Medtech Innovation Briefing (MIB) published by NICE which includes the use of artificial intelligence (AI). The innovative software automates aspects of detecting brain abnormalities and assists in prioritising the most urgent cases.
https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-publishes-its-first-medtech-briefing-on-artificial-intelligence-software

NIHR. World's first artificial pancreas app now available to people with type 1 diabetes in UK. Researchers supported by NIHR have announced the commercial launch of the world's first licensed artificial pancreas app for people with type 1 diabetes. The app works with a glucose monitor and an insulin pump to automatically deliver insulin to people with the life-threatening condition. The app is the first artificial pancreas system to be licensed for use in pregnancy, or by young children.
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/worlds-first-artificial-pancreas-app-now-available-to-people-with-type-1-diabetes-in-uk/24464

Staff focus

Health Education England. Nationwide plan to tackle the LD nursing recruitment and retention challenge. A new plan to help boost the number of people entering the learning disability nursing profession, improve the learner experience, develop a pre-registration programme and celebrate the role they play in delivering care to patients is being developed by Health Education England.
https://www.hee.nhs.uk/news-blogs-events/news/nationwide-plan-tackle-ld-nursing-recruitment-retention-challenge

Health Education England. HEE to invest up to £10m in clinical placements across England. Investment plans to support new undergraduate nurses have been unveiled today by Mark Radford, Chief Nurse, Health Education England to boost nursing workforce numbers. £10m will be invested in clinical placement programmes to increase nursing capacity.
https://www.hee.nhs.uk/news-blogs-events/news/health-education-england-invest-%C2%A310m-clinical-placements-across-england

NHS Employers. Menopause at work. This guidance was produced by the NHS Staff Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Partnership Group. The overall purpose of the group is to raise standards of workplace health, safety and wellbeing in healthcare organisations and to promote a safer working environment for all healthcare staff. Find out more the partnership group.
https://www.nhsemployers.org/case-studies-and-resources/2020/03/new-guidance-on-menopause-at-work

NHS Employers. Inspire, attract and recruit toolkit updated. The toolkit provides guidance, top tips and best practice on: understanding your workforce supply and your audience; the importance of being a leading employer and attracting the right people to your organisation; simplifying and improving recruitment processes to create a positive candidate experience.
https://www.nhsemployers.org/news/2020/03/inspire-attract-and-recruit-updated