

Studies

[How can cancer teams ensure that patients' preferences inform treatment decisions?](#)

Teams of professionals working together (multidisciplinary teams) have improved outcomes for people with many different conditions, including cancer. But a study found that this way of working may not support patient preferences. It calls for professionals to ensure that people with cancer take part in decisions about their treatment.

Case Studies

[Getting frailty patients home earlier: virtual wards in North West Anglia](#)

How eligible frail patients, who would otherwise have needed to be kept in hospital, are being supported at home by a multidisciplinary team.

Reports

[CDEI carries out public engagement on government data linking with groups with complex needs](#)

The Ministry of Justice's BOLD programme partnered with the CDEI to undertake extensive public engagement about government data linking with affected groups and trusted intermediaries, and better understand the impact of the programme on those it might affect.

[Together we can: Healthwatch England Annual Report 2021–22](#)

NHS and social care services only make the best decisions if they listen to the people they care for. Read our Annual Report to Parliament to see how your feedback has helped decision-makers prioritise what matters most.

Policies

[Transforming Support: The Health and Disability White Paper](#)

The government's proposals to help more disabled people and people with health conditions to start, stay and succeed in work.

Patient Information

[Publication of visual resource on menopause](#)

The ALLIANCE's visual resource for menopause, published in partnership with the Scottish Government, provides insight into the diversity of menopausal experience to support women to feel better informed and confident in raising their experience with friends, family, partners, colleagues and GPs.

Public Advice

[Tackling Health Misinformation on Social Media](#)

We looked into how people in the UK use social media to find information and advice about their general and sexual health. We wanted to see how trusting we are, how easy we fall into traps of misinformation, and how falling for incorrect information about our health can impact other areas of our lives. We also spoke to experts and doctors to share their experiences and insights on how to spot false snippets of information, and how to avoid making the mistake of believing them.

Statistics

[Substance misuse treatment in secure settings: 2021 to 2022](#)

Statistics for alcohol and drug misuse treatment in prisons and other secure settings from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

[Oral health survey of 5 year old children 2022](#)

Results of the National Dental Epidemiology Programme survey which took place in the academic year 2021 to 2022.

Campaigns

[Supporting general practice referrals to the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service](#)

Referring suitable patients to a community pharmacist for a consultation under CPCS helps improve access to primary care services, supports patients to be treated by the right healthcare professional at the right time and improves the integration of community pharmacy into urgent care.

[Fighting to end the lung health lottery](#)

We are calling on the government to address stark inequalities in lung health across the UK with our recently launched End the Lung Health Lottery campaign. Our latest research found rates of emergency admissions and deaths from lung conditions are much higher in areas such as Blackpool, Liverpool and Inverclyde than other parts of the UK. If we want to stop people dying avoidably from their lung conditions, underlying health inequalities – such as high levels of air pollution, stubbornly high smoking rates and poor quality housing leading to mould and damp - need to be urgently addressed. In addition, despite the tireless work of NHS doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals, basic levels of care for people with lung conditions remain patchy.

[BSL first approach: Accessible health information is essential in tackling health inequalities for deaf people](#)

In recognition of Sign Language Week, set up to commemorate the first time British Sign Language was acknowledged as a language on 18 March 2003, SignHealth highlights the importance of why we need to do more to achieve health equity for deaf people on its 20th anniversary.

Blogs

[Perinatal mental health services – supporting pregnant women and new mothers](#)

Every year on Mother's Day we tell mums that they are the best, our modern times superheroes. We celebrate the incredible job they do every day to care and provide for their family. And we say things like 'I don't know how you do it all!'. This year we want to reflect on the pressure that comes with such expectations – a pressure that can be felt by women even before they become mothers. Pregnancy and becoming a mother can be extremely challenging and one in four women will experience mental health issues during this transition. We need to take the pressure off and support mothers, especially those who face depression, anxiety, psychosis and/or trauma.

[Ending Hepatitis C in England](#)

In my keynote speech at this week's Hepatitis C Virus Elimination National Conference, I reflected on our elimination programme's progress to date and how we're taking initiatives further forward. The NHS and our partner organisations have made significant achievements, and as we celebrate 75 years of the NHS – I'm proud to say we are firmly on track to eliminate Hepatitis C as a public health threat by 2025.

News

[Government and health unions agree pay deal paving way for an end to strike action](#)

After constructive talks with health unions, the government has put forward an offer for more than 1 million NHS staff to receive an additional pay rise.

[Hundreds of thousands of women experiencing menopause symptoms to get cheaper HRT](#)

Around 400,000 women across England will get better access to menopause support - saving hundreds of pounds and making treatment more accessible.

[Government sets out strategy to protect NHS from cyber attacks](#)

The government will provide a plan to promote cyber resilience across the health and care sectors by 2030, protecting both services and patients.

[New guidance on hip fracture services will improve recovery for thousands of patients](#)

The ROS, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Bristol, has today (6 March) launched a new 'toolkit' for senior doctors and hospital managers, that will help make changes to their organisational arrangements and improve the quality of hip fracture care across the UK.

[NHS rolls out specialist medical care centres for women during pregnancy](#)

Pregnant women with serious medical problems will now have access to specialist treatment centres across the country. The 17 new centres of excellence will help women with pre-existing medical conditions, or conditions that arise during pregnancy to quickly get the extra care they might need.

[NHS patients with rare genetic disorders to be fast-tracked to earlier diagnosis and specialist care](#)

Hundreds of people with a range of rare conditions primarily affecting the central nervous system will be fast-tracked to diagnosis and specialist care, thanks to the launch of a pioneering new NHS service. Patients with inherited white matter disorders (IWMDs), also known as leukodystrophies, will now have rapid access to expert teams, increased virtual support to reduce unnecessary travel to distant face-to-face appointments, and improved local support from nearby clinics providing local testing and symptom management.

[UKHSA urges those with new or multiple sexual partners to get tested after gonorrhoea cases resurge](#)

Gonorrhoea cases have resurged in England since the easing of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions in 2021.

[Honesty with the public about what is achievable central to healthcare leaders' priorities for primary care recovery plan](#)

The NHS Confederation is urging that honesty and realism are core priorities in any recovery plan for primary care.

[Four innovative tests for diagnosing UTIs could help in the fight against antimicrobial resistance](#)

Innovative tests with the potential to help people with a urinary tract infection (UTI) receive the correct course of antibiotics more quickly could soon be considered for use in the NHS.

[NICE identifies improvements for people with acute kidney injury in updated quality standard](#)

An updated quality standard published today (23 March 2023) by NICE outlines improvements in care for people who have or are at risk of acute kidney injury.

[Chart of the week: When being 64 for the most deprived feels like 90 for the better off](#)

The 2021 Census asked everyone in the UK to report their general health from very bad to very good. As Sophie Julian and Sally Gainsbury show, there were some very revealing findings, with people from the most deprived areas of the country experiencing significantly poorer health than those in better off areas.

[We need to talk about health inequalities](#)

Yesterday saw the launch of the [first Health Equals campaign](#). Health Equals brings together a coalition of organisations working across a range of sectors with the shared goal of a society where each of us has our best chance of good health and wellbeing, no matter who we are or where we are born, work and live. With members from across a range of determinants of health, it clearly shows that creating a healthy society is everyone's business.

[UK GPs suffering unsustainable workplace pressures](#)

UK GPs experience the highest stress and lowest job satisfaction compared to GPs in 9 other high-income countries, according to new analysis of Commonwealth Fund data from the Health Foundation. Just a decade earlier UK GPs were among the most satisfied of any country. A new Health Foundation [report](#) published today paints a grim picture of the pressures facing GPs in the UK and internationally. The report analyses data from an international survey of 9,526 GPs in 10 high-income countries, including 1,010 in the UK, carried out by the US-based foundation, the Commonwealth Fund. A majority of GPs in all countries are dealing with higher workloads than before the pandemic – and many have experienced greater stress and signs of emotional distress.

[Virtual wards: the lessons so far and future priorities](#)

The expansion of virtual wards – which help patients to manage their health and care at home – is considered an important component of NHS planning for next winter. Following discussions with members of BT's clinical advisory board and drawing on wider evidence and the latest policy developments, Rachel Hutchings and Nigel Edwards discuss the priority areas where further development and action could help improve virtual wards' effectiveness.

[Long COVID: what we know about how the condition affects mental health](#)

Many people have persistent symptoms after recovering from COVID, a condition termed "[long COVID](#)". The UK's [Office for National Statistics](#) estimates 1.8 million people in the UK have long COVID symptoms at least 12 weeks after their initial infection.

[Breast cancer: progestogen-only and combined birth control both increase risk – here's what you need to know](#)

Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer worldwide, with around 2.3 million women diagnosed with the disease every year. In the UK alone, it is estimated that one in seven women will develop breast cancer at some point in their lifetime.

[Could the common cold give children immunity against COVID? Our research offers clues](#)

Why children are less likely to become severely ill with COVID compared with adults is not clear. Some have suggested that it might be because children are less likely to have diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure, that are known to be linked to more severe COVID. Others have suggested that it could be because of a difference in ACE2 receptors in children – ACE2 receptors being the route through which the virus enters our cells.

[Older people have eating disorders too – but they're a largely ignored group](#)

Josie (not her real name) has bulimia. She is prescribed steroids to manage a lung condition and heart failure and has gained a significant amount of weight as a result of using the drugs. Her body mass index (BMI) is over 35, which is in the obesity range. She was referred to the Community Mental Health Team because she had returned to her GP, concerned about her low mood, anxiety and difficulty walking.