

Public Health Bulletin. 29th October 2019

Produced by NHS libraries in Thames Valley and Wessex

Please find below a list of news items from the past fortnight that may be of interest to those involved in public health. This Bulletin provides topical news and reports of relevance to public health teams, community health practitioners and anyone with an interest in health promotion. All content and links are provided for information only and we do not sponsor, endorse or otherwise approve of any mentioned website or the contents of the news items. Please refer to the terms and conditions of the relevant website should you wish to reproduce any of the information.

Details of alternative current awareness services which cover more academic/specialist sources of information can be found in the section *Other Bulletins*. Your local NHS library service can assist you in accessing other current awareness services/tailored alerts, locating peer reviewed journal articles and answer any other queries you may have regarding finding information.

The information about each news item only gives a brief overview so we recommend you view the original source by clicking on the title (or Ctrl+Click in the word document).

Please contact your local NHS library service if you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, or if you know of anyone else who would like to join the mailing list. The Bulletins are also available on the Thames Valley Public Health Network at: <http://www.oxsph.org/bulletins.html> and the Wessex Public Health Network at: <http://www.wessexphnetwork.org.uk/resources/public-health-updates.aspx>

[Alcohol misuse](#)

[Children and young people](#)

[Chronic conditions](#)

[Communicable diseases](#)

[Diet & nutrition](#)

[Drug Misuse](#)

[Environmental health](#)

[Health promotion](#)

[Health protection](#)

[Health Services administration](#)

[Men's health](#)

[Mental health](#)

[Obesity](#)

[Older people](#)

[Physical activity](#)

[Prison health](#)

[Safety](#)

[Screening](#)

[Sexual Health](#)

[Social and economic issues](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Women's health](#)

[Local news](#)

Alcohol misuse

[UK alcohol clinical guidelines development begins](#)

18 Oct 2019

Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

PHE is working in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland governments, to produce UK-wide clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment to provide support for alcohol treatment practice. There is currently no equivalent for alcohol to the UK drug misuse treatment guidelines (the 'orange book'), which has been vital in establishing and maintaining good practice for drug treatment. The proposed alcohol treatment guidelines will fill this gap.

[Cuts to alcohol duty linked to 2,000 additional deaths in England](#)

Oct 2019

Source: Alcohol Health Alliance UK <http://ahauk.org/>

A [new report from the Sheffield Alcohol Research Group](#), commissioned by the Institute of Alcohol Studies, found that almost 2,000 people in England, and 250 in Scotland, have died as a result of recent government cuts to alcohol duty.

See also [Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough](#) in the Health promotion section

See also [Alcohol industry-funded websites 'put pregnant women at risk'](#) in the Women's health section

Children and young people

[Poor diets damaging children's health, warns UNICEF](#)

15 Oct 2019

Source: UNICEF <https://www.unicef.org.uk>

An alarmingly high number of children are suffering the consequences of poor diets and a food system that is failing them, UNICEF warned today in a new report on children, food and nutrition.

[Just one TV show can lead to children eating more calories than they need](#)

23 Oct 2019

Source: Obesity Health Alliance <http://obesityhealthalliance.org.uk/>

Hundreds of thousands of children exposed to several minutes of junk food adverts during their favourite TV show. Children watching just one episode of Britain's Got Talent saw over four and a half minutes of adverts for unhealthy food and drinks – including pizza, burgers, ice cream, cake and chocolate biscuits, analysis by the Obesity Health Alliance (OHA) shows.

[Children's Commissioner for England response to CQC report on the state of care](#)

15 Oct 2019

Source: Children's Commissioner for England

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk>

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, responding to the [CQC annual report into the state of care](#), said: "It is completely unacceptable that the number

of children's inpatient mental health services rated inadequate has more than doubled in the last year

[How dad saved son from 'scalding cuppa' scars](#)

16 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Scott Gray had made a cup of tea at home and left it on the side while playing with his sons, four-year-old Archie and two-year-old Freddie. Moments later, Archie had knocked the tea off the side and on to himself. Scott said: "I pulled his trousers and his skin came off too. It was horrendous. It happened so fast. It was only on him for one or two seconds."

[A healthy foundation for the future](#)

Oct 2019 Source: Health Foundation <https://www.health.org.uk/>

The final report of the Young people's future health inquiry. The Young people's future health inquiry is a two-year project which explored the influences affecting the future health of today's young people, and what needs to change to secure a healthy society.

[One in six girls miss school or work due to worries about their appearance, new survey finds](#)

11 Oct 2019 Source: Plan International <https://plan-uk.org/>

One in six (17%) girls and young women in the UK have missed school or work in the last year due to worries about their appearance, a new survey by global children's charity Plan International UK can reveal.

[Update on flu programme](#)

22 Oct 2019 Source: Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

Work is underway to minimise any potential disruption to the childhood flu immunisation caused by a delivery delay in some batches of a nasal spray flu vaccine. The vaccines are due to arrive next month and the potential delay is due to issues relating to routine testing of Fluenz Tetra™ by the manufacturer and is not related to the safety or the efficacy of the vaccine.

[Gaming the system](#)

22 Oct 2019 Source: The Childrens Commissioner <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

The overwhelming majority of children (93 percent) in the UK play video games. Yet despite its popularity, the culture of 'gaming' - its rules and its rituals, the varying profiles of players, the risks they face – tends to be spoken of by adults, whether they be policymakers or parents, as if it were an alien landscape.

[Babies born at 22 weeks 'can now survive'](#)

23 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Improving survival rates for extremely premature babies mean it is now possible to save the lives of babies born at 22 weeks, guidance says. Previously it was recommended that only babies born at 23 weeks or later were given treatment to save their lives. But

there is now evidence those born earlier can survive - although only in small numbers - the British Association of Perinatal Medicine said.

Heavy social media use linked to poor sleep

23 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Teenagers using social media for more than three hours a day are more likely to go to bed after 23:00 and wake during the night, UK research suggests. This affects one in three teens - with one in five spending five hours or more on apps like Instagram, WhatsApp and Facebook every day, the study said. The University of Glasgow researchers said 13 to 15 year-olds may be delaying bedtime by being on their phones.

Investigation into pre-school vaccinations

25 Oct 2019 Source: National Audit Office <https://www.nao.org.uk/>

In its report published yesterday, the National Audit Office (NAO) found NHS England has missed the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) performance standard for the uptake of nearly all pre-school vaccinations in England in 2018-19. Uptake of nearly all pre-school vaccinations has declined since 2012-13 and in 2019 the World Health Organization withdrew the UK's measles elimination status.1 NHS England data shows regional variations in uptake of vaccinations, with particularly low levels in London.

Vaccine reminder system 'inconsistent', report concludes

25 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

The NHS system for reminding parents to have their children vaccinated is "inconsistent" and making an appointment can be difficult, says a report on vaccine uptake in England. It says there should be a greater push to identify vulnerable and underserved groups, like travellers.

NHS ramps up drive to increase uptake of lifesaving vaccines

25 Oct 2019 Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

More lifesaving vaccines should be provided in convenient locations for parents to drive uptake, a new NHS review shows. The findings are being published amid a reduction in children getting vaccinated, with analysis showing that one in seven children aged five had not had both doses of essential measles jabs. Health leaders will also look at how payments to GPs will ensure they vaccinate as many children and young people as possible against MMR.

Restaurant highchairs 'dirtier than tables'

29 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Parents have called for tests on restaurant furniture to be part of hygiene inspections after highchairs were found to be dirtier than tables. Samples taken at Stoke-on-Trent restaurants by the BBC revealed bacteria on highchairs that could have been removed with "modest cleaning".

[Anorexia in younger children may be increasing](#)

23 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Website <http://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Number of children with anorexia on the rise," reports The Guardian. The headline is based on a study of records of eating disorders in children and young people in the UK and Ireland carried out in 2015. Child and adolescent psychiatrists reported 305 new cases of anorexia during an 8-month period, among children and young people with an average age of between 14 to 15 years. Overall, that translated to around 14 new cases of anorexia per 100,000 young people aged 8 to 17 each year.

See also [iNHS England concludes wide-ranging deal for cystic fibrosis drugs](#) in Chronic conditions

Chronic conditions

[Cardiff City footballers back life-saving CPR campaign](#)

16 Oct 2019

Source: Welsh Government <https://gov.wales/>

On Restart A Heart Day, players from Cardiff City Football Club are joining forces with local school pupils to back Save A Life Cymru's mission to boost the number of people in Wales who can perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

[Microphone could diagnose 'noisy' arthritic knees](#)

17 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Technology used by engineers to listen for faults in bridges could be used to diagnose 'noisy' arthritic knees, a study suggests. It involved a tiny microphone being attached to participants' knees to pick up high-frequency sounds. Although not audible to humans, the waveforms can be analysed by computers to give an insight into knee health.

[Steroid injections to treat arthritis pain may worsen joint damage](#)

17 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Website <http://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Cortisone injections for hip and knee pain are more dangerous than was thought," reports The Telegraph. The headline follows a study looking into the effects of steroid injections (also called corticosteroid injections) in the hip and knee.

[Would people at low risk of heart disease benefit from statin treatment?](#)

18 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Website <http://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Benefits of statins 'are marginal at best' for otherwise healthy people," reports the Mail Online. Statins, which reduce levels of LDL ("bad") cholesterol in the blood, are medicines that are widely used to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

Tens of thousands given life changing diabetes monitors thanks to the NHS Long Term Plan

21 Oct 2019

Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

Nearly 30,000 people across the country with Type 1 diabetes have received life-changing diabetes monitors through the NHS Long Term Plan. The innovative device, which is the size of a £2 coin and worn on the arm, means people with Type 1 do not have to carry out multiple painful finger-prick checks to monitor their blood sugar levels.

Blood pressure pills 'work better at bedtime'

23 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

To get the best out of your daily blood pressure medication, take it just before you go to bed, say researchers. It's a simple tip that could save lives, they say in the European Heart Journal. The pills offer more protection against heart attacks and strokes when taken at bedtime rather than in the morning, a large new study suggests.

Could blood pressure tablets be more effective if taken at bedtime?

24 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Website <http://www.nhs.uk/news/>

Several media sources reported that blood pressure tablets work better if taken at bedtime, reducing the risk of a heart attack and early death. This follows a large trial carried out across general practices in northern Spain. It included around 20,000 adults (aged 60 on average) with high blood pressure.

NHS England concludes wide-ranging deal for cystic fibrosis drugs

24 Oct 2019

Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

NHS England has today announced it has secured a definitive agreement with Vertex Pharmaceuticals to make available all three of their UK-licensed cystic fibrosis medicines. This means NHS patients will now have full access to Orkambi, Symkevi and Kalydeco, and around 5000 people may now take up these treatments. There is no cap on patient numbers, and each and every patient in England who might benefit can now get these treatments, free on the NHS. Clinicians will be able to begin prescribing these drugs within 30 days.

People 'more likely to feel pain on humid days'

24 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

People with long-term health problems such as arthritis are more likely to feel pain on humid days, a study has suggested. Folklore suggests the cold makes pain worse - but there is actually little research into the weather's effects. And this University of Manchester study of 2,500 people, which collected data via smartphones, found symptoms were actually worse on warmer, damper days.

[Trust failed to inform man his cancer was terminal, Ombudsman finds](#)

29 Oct 2019

Source: Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

<https://www.ombudsman.org.uk>

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman has found serious failings at Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust (the Trust) following the death of a man whose cancer was misdiagnosed, and who was not informed that his condition was terminal.

Communicable diseases

[Leeds pharmacies and GP practices first to share flu vaccination details via clinical systems](#)

17 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

Information about flu vaccinations is being sent from pharmacies to GP practices in a pilot scheme run by NHS Digital. Through the pilot, which is taking place in Leeds, electronic notifications about patients who have had their flu vaccination in a pharmacy will be sent securely to their GP via clinical systems. This will save time for GP practices and pharmacies, help to improve data quality and reduce the possibility of errors.

[Suspected mumps among south Wales university students](#)

18 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Almost 30 suspected cases of mumps - a contagious viral infection that causes swelling of the glands - have struck students at universities in Wales. Public Health Wales (PHW) is investigating a series of cases in Cardiff and the Cwm Taf area. It is urging people to make sure they have received the MMR vaccination

[Essex Strep A: District nurses 'most likely cause' of outbreak](#)

19 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

The "most likely cause" of a bacterial outbreak that has seen 15 people die was district nursing teams, a document obtained by the BBC has revealed. At least 33 people in Essex have been infected by the strain of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) bacterium. Of 32 cases initially found in the area 29 had previously been visited by Provide nurses, files obtained showed.

[Poor toilet hygiene behind E. coli superbug spread](#)

23 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

People not washing their hands after going to the toilet, rather than undercooked meat, is behind the spread of a key strain of E. coli. Experts looked at thousands of blood, faecal and food samples. They found human-to-human transmission was responsible - "faecal particles from one person reaching the mouth of another".

['Milestone' in polio eradication achieved](#)

24 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

The second of three forms of the polio virus has been eradicated, experts have announced. There are three types of the wild polio virus, which, while scientifically

different, cause the same symptoms, including paralysis or even death, The world was declared free of type 2 four years ago - and now the World Health Organization has said type 3 has also been eradicated.

[Brain illness spread by ticks has reached UK](#)

29 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

An infectious disease that can harm the brain and is spread to people by tick bites has been identified in ticks in the UK for the first time. Public Health England (PHE) says it has confirmed cases of tick-borne encephalitis virus in ticks from two parts of England - Thetford Forest and an area on the Hampshire-Dorset border.

See also [Update on flu programme](#) in the Children and young people section
See also [Vaccine reminder system 'inconsistent', report concludes](#) in the Children and young people section

Diet & nutrition

[Chief Medical Officer's call for 'standardised' packaging on sweets and confectionary is welcome, says IPPR](#)

15 Oct 2019 Source: IPPR <https://www.ippr.org>

Move to tackle obesity would level playing field against advertisers who spend 30x more on ads than the government does on healthy eating The IPPR think tank today welcomes the Chief Medical Officer's recommendation that Government should act to end the aggressive advertisement of junk food to children.

[Liquid food safety alert leaves woman with no food for 10 days](#)

16 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A woman who relies on liquid food after having most of her intestines removed was left without supplies for 10 days after a safety alert.

See also [Poor diets damaging children's health, warns UNICEF](#) in the Children and young people section

Drug Misuse

[UK wide summit announced to tackle drug deaths](#)

23 Oct 2019 Source: Home Office <https://www.gov.uk/>

The UK government has announced a summit focused on tackling problem drug use that will bring together a variety of experts from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The announcement was made by Minister for Crime, Policing and the Fire Service Kit Malthouse today at a meeting of the Scottish Affairs Select Committee. The summit will be held in Glasgow, and the intention is for it to take place before Christmas. It will provide an update on Dame Carol Black's review of drugs, which is due to report later this year.

[Radical change needed in approach to UK drugs policy](#)

23 Oct 2019

Source: Commons Select Committee <https://www.parliament.uk/>

A health focused and harm reduction approach would not only benefit those who are using drugs but reduce harm to and the costs for their wider communities say the Health and Social Care Committee in its report on drugs policy.

Environmental health

[Cutting air pollution in Europe would prevent early deaths, improve productivity & curb climate change](#)

16 Oct 2019

Source: European Environment Agency <https://www.eea.europa.eu>

Europe's air is getting cleaner but persistent pollution, especially in cities, still damages people's health and the economy. The European Environment Agency's (EEA) new analysis on air quality shows that exposure to air pollution caused about 400,000 premature deaths in the European Union (EU) in 2016.

[Air pollution 'triggers hundreds more heart attacks and strokes'](#)

21 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Sudden spikes in air pollution in the UK trigger hundreds more heart attacks, strokes and acute asthma attacks on those days, research suggests. A team at King's College London looked at data from London, Birmingham, Bristol, Derby, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford and Southampton. Days when pollutant levels were in the top half of the annual range saw an extra 124 cardiac arrests on average.

Health promotion

[Two businesses reaping the benefits of Healthy Working Wales support to improve mental health and wellbeing of staff](#)

16 Oct 2019

Source: Welsh Government <https://gov.wales/>

Two Welsh businesses are reaping the benefits of support from Healthy Working Wales to improve the mental health and wellbeing of their staff.

[Human trafficking guidance for health workers](#)

18 Oct 2019

Source: Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

Health workers will be given new guidance to help them identify signs of human trafficking and exploitation among patients. The guidelines include advice to help frontline health professionals know what action to take if they have concerns.

[Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough](#)

22 Oct 2019

Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

A Rough Sleeping grant of £1.9 million has today been awarded to 6 projects involving partnerships between Local Authorities (LAs) and Clinical Commissioning Groups

(CCGs). These 6 projects will test and evaluate models that improve access to health services for people who have both mental ill health and drug and alcohol dependency needs - who are currently experiencing, or at risk of returning to, rough sleeping. Learnings from these projects will help to inform national policy and local commissioning of health and support services.

Unite: Crisis in health visiting comes under MPs' spotlight today

23 Oct 2019 Source: UNITE <https://unitetheunion.org/>

The crisis facing the health visiting profession in England will receive much-needed scrutiny by MPs later today (Wednesday 23 October) when there is a Westminster Hall debate. The Unite union, which embraces the Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association (CPHVA), said this crisis had been brewing since the Health Visitor Implementation Plan came to an end in 2015.

Social prescribing: new national academy set up

23 Oct 2019 Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock is setting out his ambition for every patient in the country to have access to social prescribing schemes on the NHS as readily as they do medical care. Social prescribing involves helping patients to improve their health, wellbeing and social welfare by connecting them to community services. This can include activities such as art and singing classes.

Patients to stand up at GP appointments in Loughborough University trials

25 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Patients will stand up at their GP surgery appointments as part of a university research trial. Doctors will stand at desks and wear trackers to monitor activity as part of the Loughborough University study. The idea is to shorten consultations and see GPs act as "role models" to be more active.

Health protection

Genetic tests: Experts urge caution over home testing

17 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

People should not make health decisions based on genetic tests they do at home, experts have warned. The University of Southampton team, writing in the British Medical Journal, warn results can be unreliable. The geneticists said the tests could be wrongly reassuring - or lead to unnecessary worry.

New Office for Veterans' Affairs will ensure the UK leads the world in care for Armed Forces Veterans

16 Oct 2019 Source: HM Government <https://www.gov.uk/>

The new office sits within the Cabinet Office and will pull together all functions of government, and better co-ordinate charity sector provision.

Contracts awarded to deliver urgent medicines into UK after Brexit

16 Oct 2019

Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

Three companies have been awarded contracts for the express freight service to deliver medicines and medical products within 24 to 48 hours if there's a no-deal Brexit.

Minister for Equalities awards Lewisham GP Practice for trailblazing programme for LGBT patients

16 Oct 2019

Source: Government Equalities Office <https://www.gov.uk/>

Minister for Equalities, Baroness Williams, recently congratulated Woolstone Medical Centre, based in Lewisham, for spearheading a new programme which trains GPs and staff in primary care organisations to fully support LGBT patients. The Practice was presented with a Gold Award in the Pride in Practice (PiP) programme which has been developed by the LGBT Foundation; and funded by the Government Equalities Office. PiP trains practitioners to meet the needs of their LGBT patients, from making a practice more welcoming to ensuring that patients are addressed in an appropriate way.

'Ask about sexual orientation to improve LGBT inequalities'

22 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

All NHS providers must ask patients about their sexual orientation to improve the "deep inequalities" in care for LGBT people, says an MPs' report. The Women and Equalities committee says hospitals and care homes should be fined if they don't collect the data. LGBT people are often less healthy than the wider population, but receive lower levels of care

"Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes" for LGBT people "glare out wherever you look"

22 Oct 2019

Source: Commons Select Committee <https://www.parliament.uk/>

LGBT people are being let down in health and social care, by structures and services that are not inclusive or designed with them in mind, and by a lack of leadership in Government, NHS and social services. In a report published today, the Women and Equalities Committee has found that too often LGBT people are expected to fit into systems that assume they are straight and cisgender. But the Committee has found that deep inequalities exist in health outcomes for these communities and that treating them "the same" as non-LGBT people will not address these poor outcomes.

See also [Essex Strep A: District nurses 'most likely cause' of outbreak](#) in the Communicable diseases section

See also [Poor toilet hygiene behind E. coli superbug spread](#) in the Communicable diseases section

Health services administration

State of Care

16 Oct 2019

Source: Care Quality Commission <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

State of Care is our annual assessment of health care and social care in England. The report looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve.

National roll-out of electronic prescription service

19 Oct 2019

Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

All prescriptions across England will be digitised to make staff and patients' lives easier, Primary Care Minister Jo Churchill has announced today. The electronic prescription service (EPS) will be rolled out nationally next month, following rigorous testing involving 60 GP practices and hundreds of pharmacies.

Plans to strengthen primary care not happening quickly enough

21 Oct 2019

Source: Wales Audit Office <http://www.audit.wales/>

Despite considerable investment and many plans for primary care transformation over the years, change has not happened as quickly or as widely as intended.

National survey shows most people experience good urgent and emergency care, but lengthy waiting times remain a problem

23 Oct 2019

Source: Care Quality Commission <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

Findings from a survey of more than 50,000 people who received urgent and emergency care from services provided by 132 NHS trusts across England show that the majority are positive about most aspects of their care and treatment. However, a significant number continue to report long waits, particularly those attending major accident and emergency (A&E) departments.

£184 million loan funding for urgent hospital upgrades

22 Oct 2019

Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

13 trusts will receive loan funding approved by the Health Secretary to go towards modernising equipment, refurbishing wards and ensuring the safety of NHS buildings.

Funding for improvements to GP practices

24 Oct 2019

Source: Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

GP practices will receive more than £9 million of new funding to upgrade their premises and IT systems supporting better services for local communities. The funding will facilitate improvements to GP practices and enhancements to make the best use of existing space. It will improve internet connectivity and also support the deployment of Attend Anywhere - an online virtual clinic that patients can link into wherever they are.

Health bosses' 'serious concerns' over homeopathy

28 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Health bosses have expressed "serious concerns" over the possible re-accreditation of the UK's largest group of registered homeopaths. In a letter to the Professional Standards Authority, they said it gives "a false impression" to the public that their treatments are "clinically and scientifically established". Homeopathy should not be recommended to the public, health chiefs say.

Men's health

Are we ready for men to take the pill?

22 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Scientists have been working on the male contraceptive pill for almost half a century. Yet despite encouraging news reports, an over-the-counter version is not just around the corner. Lack of funding and presumed disinterest from men means that one has never been mass produced. Instead, women are still generally expected to take responsibility for not getting pregnant. However, research suggests many men would embrace the pill if it was available.

Mental health

Growing pressures on access and staffing risk creating 'perfect storm' for people using mental health and learning disability services

21 Oct 2019 Source: Care Quality Commission <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

The Care Quality Commission's [annual assessment of the state of health and social care in England](#) shows that quality ratings have been maintained overall – but people's experience of care is determined by whether they can access good care when they need it.

New fund for frontline organisations tackling loneliness

15 Oct 2019 Source: Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport <https://www.gov.uk/>

A new £2 million fund is being launched to help organisations at the frontline of tackling loneliness across the country, Minister for Civil Society Baroness Barran announced today.

Rough sleepers in homeless hotspots to benefit from NHS mental health outreach

14 Oct 2019 Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

Towns with high rates of homelessness are set for investment in specialist mental health care, as part of NHS services for rough sleepers across the country. The NHS-funded services in seven parts of the country will bring in new psychiatrists, psychologists and other experts to offer homeless people advice and treatment to tackle underlying mental ill health.

Mental health sick leave rises for emergency workers

16 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

More emergency service staff are taking sick leave due to poor mental health, figures suggest. Data for 57 fire, police and ambulance services in England, Wales and Northern Ireland shows the number of staff who took time off due to mental ill health rose by a third between 2014 and 2018.

Dementia death in footballers three and a half times more likely than in general population

21 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Former professional footballers are three and a half times more likely to die of dementia than people of the same age range in the general population, according to new research. Experts at Glasgow University have been investigating fears that heading the ball could be linked to brain injuries.

Dementia fears for former footballers

23 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Website <http://www.nhs.uk/news/>

"Ex-pro footballers 3 times more likely to get dementia from heading balls," reports The Sun. The headline was prompted by a study of 7,676 male ex-professional footballers in Scotland, which found they were more likely to die from conditions linked to brain or nerve damage. These conditions, called neurodegenerative diseases, included Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

Dedicated mental health support for all NHS doctors and dentists

21 Oct 2019

Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

All NHS doctors and dentists in England now have access to a comprehensive mental health service, Health Secretary Matt Hancock has announced today. More than 180,000 doctors and dentists can get confidential advice and support, in person or over the phone, if they've faced a stressful incident at work or feel they are struggling with their mental health.

First drug that can slow Alzheimer's dementia

22 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A US drug company says it has created the first therapy that could slow Alzheimer's disease, and it is now ready to bring it to market. Currently, there are no drugs that can do this - existing ones only help with symptoms. Biogen says it will soon seek regulatory approval in the US for the "groundbreaking" drug, called aducanumab.

Narcissists 'horrible people but happy'

29 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Narcissists might have "grandiose" delusions about their own importance and an absence of "shame" - but psychologists say they are also likely to be happier than most people. An ongoing study of narcissism by researchers at Queen's University Belfast has found such people might infuriate others but are less likely to be stressed or depressed.

[Suicide bereavement support to be made available across England](#)

27 Oct 2019

Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

People who have lost someone close to them due to suicide will benefit from dedicated bereavement care. The government has announced plans to roll out services on the NHS across England. The plans mean anyone affected by a family member or friend taking their own life will have access to practical and emotional support in the days and months following their death.

[LGA and NALC join forces to tackle loneliness](#)

29 Oct 2019

Source: Local Government Assoc. <http://www.local.gov.uk/>

The Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have joined forces to provide a valuable guide for commissioners, service providers, councillors and leaders across local government to help them to tackle loneliness, as well as support those affected by it.

See also [Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough](#) in the Health promotion section

Obesity

[Health Minister launches ambitious new plan to halt obesity rise in Wales](#)

17 Oct 2019

Source: Welsh Government <https://gov.wales/>

The Health Minister, Vaughan Gething has today outlined plans to make Wales' one of the first countries to see obesity rates decline. Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales is the Welsh Government's long term strategy to prevent and reduce obesity. The aim of the plan is to deliver healthy settings and environments to allow people of all ages to make healthy choices.

[Fat found in overweight people's lungs](#)

18 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Fatty tissue has been found in the lungs of overweight and obese people for the first time. Australian researchers analysed lung samples from 52 people and found the amount of fat increased in line with body mass index. They said their findings could explain why being overweight or obese increased asthma risk. Lung experts said it would be interesting to see if the effect could be reversed by weight loss.

See also [Just one TV show can lead to children eating more calories than they need](#) in the Children's and young people section

Older people

[New resources help organisations to support older people to use digital](#)

16 Oct 2019 Source: NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

This week is Get Online Week - the UK's largest digital inclusion campaign - and we're celebrating the positive impact that digital can have for older people through a new report launched today. The evaluation was completed by Good Things Foundation as part of the Widening Digital Participation programme, supported by the NHS. Good Things Foundation is also publishing a toolkit of resources to help organisations to support older patients to benefit from digital.

[Healthy ageing: consensus statement](#)

16 Oct 2019 Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

This statement by Public Health England and the Centre for Ageing Better sets out our shared vision for making England the best place in the world to grow old.

Physical activity

[Tied Projects Encourage 5,000 People to Get Physically Active](#)

11 Oct 2019 Source: Sport England <https://www.sportengland.org/>

Nearly 5,000 people in low socio-economic groups have been helped to get active during the first year of our TIED – Tackling Inactivity and Economic Disadvantage – programme. Over the past year, the 35 projects that received funding from our Tackling Inactivity and Economic Disadvantage fund have been delivering in disadvantaged communities around the country. Between them, they received more than £4 million in National Lottery funding which is being put towards engaging inactive people from low socio-economic communities.

[One million more active in England](#)

17 Oct 2019 Source: Sport England <https://www.sportengland.org/>

New Active Lives Adult Survey results also show evidence of the positive impacts of activity on mental health. The highest ever levels of activity have been recorded by our latest Active Lives Adult Survey, with 1 million more people physically active than when the survey began.

Prison health

[A public health approach to justice](#)

21 Oct 2019 Source: NHS Health Scotland <http://www.healthscotland.scot>

Today, Scotland is host to a major conference aimed at changing lives by strengthening links between public health and the justice system. Around 500 delegates from all over the world will gather in Edinburgh for the three-day event. Delegates will come together to promote collaborative working between frontline services, public health, justice workers, academics, policy makers and people with lived experience.

Safety

[Anti-bleeding drug could prevent death after brain injury](#)

16 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Website <http://www.nhs.uk/news/>

BBC News reports that a "cheap drug could save thousands of lives a year". This follows a large trial, carried out across 29 countries, which used the medicine tranexamic acid to treat people with traumatic brain injury.

Screening

[NHS screening 'needs to fit with busy lives'](#)

16 Oct 2019

Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

There needs to be easier access to NHS screening programmes in England, including evening and weekend clinics, to increase uptake, a review says. The report by Prof Sir Mike Richards also called for tests to be offered in a wider variety of locations, including mobile units. And it recommended using social media to promote what was available

[Modern screening can be more personalised and convenient to save lives says new report](#)

16 Oct 2019

Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

The NHS has the opportunity to upgrade cancer screening to save thousands more lives each year, a major report said today. Leading expert Professor Sir Mike Richards was jointly commissioned by NHS chief executive Simon Stevens and Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock to make [recommendations on overhauling national screening programmes](#), as part of a new NHS drive for earlier diagnosis and improved cancer survival.

[Cervical screening: invasive cervical cancer audit 2013 to 2016](#)

24 Oct 2019

Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

This audit report provides data on cases of invasive cervical cancer from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016.

Sexual health

[Sexually transmitted infections \(STIs\): annual data tables](#)

23 Oct 2019

Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

Information on STI diagnoses and sexual health services provided in England by demographic characteristics and geographical region.

[Sexual health report: government response](#)

24 Oct 2019

Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

The government's response to the Health and Social Care Committee's report on sexual health.

[Government commits to national sexual health strategy](#)

24 Oct 2019

Source: Terrence Higgins Trust <https://www.tht.org.uk>

The Government has announced it intends to establish a national sexual health strategy in its response to a critical report by MPs on the nation's sexual health. We welcome this decision but without proper funding, there will be no progress to reduce the soaring STI rates across England.

[Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea](#)

28 Oct 2019

Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

The £3.5 million investment will help develop new treatments for gonorrhoea and make them available to low- and middle-income countries. The investment is part of a continued partnership with the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), a not-for-profit research and development organisation co-founded by the World Health Organization and the Drugs for Neglected Disease initiative in 2016.

Social & economic issues

[Three reports providing official adult social care statistics released by NHS Digital today](#)

22 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

NHS Digital has published three reports which include the latest statistics on those in receipt of adult social care in England. The reports cover a range of topics – from the feelings of those in receipt of adult social care to the latest statistics on social care activity and finance

Statistics

[Statistics on NHS Health Checks broken down by age, gender and ethnicity for the first time](#)

17 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

Local demographic statistics on NHS Health Checks² attended in England between April 2012 and March 2018 has been published for the first time today. 90% of GP practices in England are captured in the dataset, which shows the number of patients recorded as having completed an NHS Health Check rose from 734,000 in 2012-13 to 1,109,000 in 2017-18 – peaking at 1,161,000 in 2015-16.

[Annual Quality Outcomes Framework \(QOF\) report for England published](#)

24 Oct 2019

Source: NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

Figures showing the recorded prevalence of 21 conditions¹, including asthma, hypertension, dementia, diabetes, and depression are published today by NHS Digital. The annual publication, Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) – Prevalence, Achievements and Exceptions Report, England 2018-19 also identifies how the recorded prevalence of these conditions has changed since the previous year.

See also [Three reports providing official adult social care statistics released by NHS Digital today](#) in the Social & economic issues section

Women's health

[Miscarriages: Calls for better care for women in Wales](#)

19 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

There are calls for better support for women who have multiple miscarriages. Jessica Evans, who has lost six babies, had to seek specialist care in England and is calling on the Welsh Government to action recommendations from a report. They include two miscarriage clinics and a time limit on health boards to ensuring care in early pregnancy units is in line with guidelines

[World Menopause Day – support for civil servants](#)

18 Oct 2019 Source: Civil Service <https://civilservice.blog.gov.uk>

Today (18 October) is World Menopause Day, an important opportunity to raise awareness of what is often a difficult subject to discuss. As a senior sponsor for the Cross Government Menopause Network (CGMN) I want to emphasise the importance of providing support for those who may be struggling with difficult symptoms. Here, Tracy Rose from the Driving & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) shares her experience of the menopause.

[Breast cancer detected by thermal imaging scan in Edinburgh](#)

22 Oct 2019 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A tourist has told of her "life-changing" visit to the Camera Obscura in Edinburgh after one of its thermal cameras detected she had breast cancer. Bal Gill, 41, from Slough in Berkshire, was at the Camera Obscura and World of Illusions at the top of the Royal Mile with her family in May. When she went into the museum's thermal imaging camera room she noticed her left breast was a different colour. When she returned home she saw a doctor who confirmed she had breast cancer.

[Alcohol industry-funded websites 'put pregnant women at risk'](#)

Oct 2019 Source: Alcohol Health Alliance UK <http://ahauk.org/>

A study from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has found that alcohol industry-funded bodies may increase health risk to pregnant women by publishing misleading information on their websites.

Local news: []

*This bulletin contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v2.0

Other Bulletins

Super Six Bulletin

This is a weekly Bulletin that details original articles in the BMJ, JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine and The Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine and Annals of Emergency Medicine

<http://cash.libraryservices.nhs.uk/subject-a-z/m/medicine/major-research/>

Daily Health News

The Daily Health Bulletin is produced by the Knowledge Service from the EMBED Health Consortium

<http://cash.libraryservices.nhs.uk/subject-a-z/d/daily-health-news/>



Public Health Bulletin by NHS Libraries in Thames Valley and Wessex is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).