

Public Health Bulletin. 3 March 2020

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>

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Alcohol misuse

[Alcohol and Drugs - How PCCs are making a difference](#)

18 Feb 2020

Source: Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

<https://www.apccs.police.uk/>

Recent figures show that almost a third of homicide victims and almost a third of homicide suspects were found by the police to have been under the influence of either alcohol or drugs at the time of the offence.

[Statistics on Alcohol, England 2020](#)

26 Feb 2020

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

This publication provides a range of information relating to alcohol use and misuse drawn from a variety of sources for England unless otherwise stated. Topics covered include: alcohol-related hospital admissions; alcohol-specific deaths; prescriptions for drugs used to treat alcohol dependence; drinking behaviours among adults and children; road casualties involving illegal alcohol levels and affordability of alcohol. The publication includes this summary report showing key findings, excel tables, technical appendices and a data quality statement.

[Wales calls time on low cost, high strength alcohol](#)

02 Mar 2020

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

A new law comes into force today setting a minimum price for alcohol in Wales.

Children and young people

[Mobile screen exposure can lead to poor sleep](#)

20 Feb 2020

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

Mobile phone use at night time is having a negative impact on young people's sleep and mental wellbeing according to a newly published report. The Glasgow University report, commissioned by the Scottish Government, summarises the findings from a systematic review of the evidence on adolescent mobile device screen time and the impact on sleep.

[Adolescents' screen time, sleep and mental health: literature review](#)

20 Feb 2020

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

Systematic review summarising the published experimental and longitudinal evidence on adolescent screen time, sleep and mental health.

[Learning difficulties 'link to brain connections'](#)

28 Feb 2020

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

Differences associated with learning difficulties are found less in specific areas of the brain and more in the connections between them, experts say. After scanning 479 children's brains, Cambridge University researchers found they were organised in multiple "hubs". Those with no difficulties - or very specific ones, such as poor listening

skills - had well connected hubs. But those with widespread and severe difficulties - 14-30% of all children - were found to have poor connections.

[Life changing fever, headache and painkilling drug for children on the NHS](#)

29 Feb 2020

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

NHS England is to fund a life-changing treatment for people with rare conditions causing repeated bouts of fever, joint pains and swelling, in an effort to help a small group of people who 'suffer in silence'.

See also [Child obesity: patterns and trends](#) in the Obesity section

Chronic conditions

[Heart doctors 'held back stent death data'](#)

18 Feb 2020

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

Doctors working on a clinical trial for treatment of heart disease held back key data, Newsnight has been told. The Excel trial tested whether stents were as effective as open heart surgery at treating patients with a heart problem called left main disease. The data suggested more people fitted with stents were dying after three years.

[Record high two million people at risk of Type 2 Diabetes](#)

24 Feb 2020

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

Around two million people in England are at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, the highest on record, according to new NHS figures. 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. Latest stats show there are 1,969,610 people registered with a GP who have non-diabetic hyperglycaemia, a condition which puts people at high risk of Type 2, which is the highest on record.

[Drug hope for people with chronic cough](#)

26 Feb 2020

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

Millions suffering from a chronic cough could have their debilitating symptoms relieved by a new treatment, according to a study. Up to 10% of adults worldwide experience symptoms with no clear underlying cause. Some suffer for decades and there is currently no effective treatment.

['Electronic nose' sniffs out condition that can lead to cancer](#)

26 Feb 2020

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

"'Electronic nose' could smell breath to warn about higher risk of oesophageal cancer," reports the Guardian. Oesophageal cancer is cancer of the food pipe. People with a condition called Barrett's oesophagus have a higher risk of oesophageal cancer and are offered regular monitoring to check for cancer signs. Researchers in the Netherlands have developed a test where chemicals in the breath (known as volatile organic compounds or VOCs) are identified by sensors in an "electronic nose", then the results fed into a computer.

[E. coli gut infection linked to bowel cancer](#)

28 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A common type of gut bacterium may increase a person's chance of developing bowel cancer, according to a study published in the journal Nature. The bacterium is a type of E. coli infection, present in up to one in five people, scientists believe

[Fish oil supplements offer 'little or no benefit' against cancer](#)

29 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Taking omega-3 supplements offers "little to no" benefit against cancer, say experts. Consumption of fish oil supplements is promoted as having a wide range of positive impacts on health. These are purported to include lowering the risk of strokes, as well as diseases such as cancer and dementia. But researchers at University of Anglia (UEA) found taking daily supplements will likely have no significant impact on a person's health

[Faster access to cannabis medicines in UK](#)

02 Mar 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Patients needing cannabis-based medicines should no longer face long delays in accessing their prescriptions, says the government. Changes to importing restrictions mean UK companies can now order and hold more stocks from abroad. That should make the treatments available to patients in days, rather than months.

Communicable diseases

[FSA research suggests new higher estimates for the role of food in UK illness](#)

20 Feb 2020 Source: Food Standards Agency <https://www.food.gov.uk/>

A scientific review by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) estimating that around 2.4 million cases of foodborne illness occur every year in the UK has been published. This is up from the 2009 estimate of approximately one million.

[New electronic notifications service for vaccinations launched this winter](#)

28 Feb 2020 Source: NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

An NHS Digital service which enables information about flu vaccinations to be sent electronically from pharmacies to GP practices has been rolled out by two system suppliers. More than 30,000 electronic messages carrying flu vaccine information have been sent during this winter's flu season so far. This has saved time for GP practices and pharmacies, helped to improve data quality and reduced the possibility of errors.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

[Global research on coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

Source: World Health organization <https://www.who.int/>

WHO is gathering the latest scientific findings and knowledge on coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) and compiling it in a database. We update the database daily from searches of bibliographic databases, hand searches of the table of contents of relevant journals, and the addition of other relevant scientific articles that come to our attention. The entries in the database may not be exhaustive and new research will be added regularly.

Coronavirus: South Korea 'emergency' measures as infections increase

21 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

South Korea has stepped up measures to contain the spread of the deadly new coronavirus, as confirmed infections increased sharply for a second day. PM Chung Sye-kyun said it was now an emergency as 100 new cases and the country's second death were confirmed.

NHS update on new cases of coronavirus confirmed today

23 Feb 2020 Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

Earlier today it was publicly confirmed that four patients transferred from the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan had tested positive for coronavirus. These four people have now been transferred to three specialist NHS infection centres. Two patients are in the Royal Hallamshire in Sheffield, one is in the Royal in Liverpool and a fourth was transferred to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle tonight.

NHS statement on home testing for coronavirus

22 Feb 2020 Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

The NHS has started pilots of home testing for coronavirus where NHS staff, including nurses and paramedics, will visit people in their own homes rather than them having to travel.

Coronavirus becomes notifiable disease in Scotland

23 Feb 2020 Source: Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

Public health regulations have been amended in Scotland to make coronavirus (Covid-19) a notifiable disease. The changes to the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008 mean that medical practitioners are now required to share patient information with health boards if they have reasonable grounds to suspect a person they are attending has coronavirus.

Coronavirus: Britons returning from northern Italy told to self-isolate

25 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Britons returning from northern Italy are being told to self-isolate in the UK if they show coronavirus symptoms. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said people with flu-like symptoms who have been north of Pisa are asked to stay at home for 14 days. The advice also applies to anyone who recently returned from Italy's quarantined towns even if they have no symptoms, he said.

Coronavirus: Worst-hit countries boost containment efforts

25 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

The worst-hit countries are intensifying their efforts to contain the deadly coronavirus as the number of cases globally surpassed 80,000. In South Korea, infections have risen again, taking the total to 977. Americans have been warned against all but essential travel to the nation. Italy and Iran are both battling to contain outbreaks of the virus.

Coronavirus: Hundreds of flu patients to be tested by UK hospitals and GPs

26 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Tests for coronavirus are being increased to include people displaying flu-like symptoms at 100 GP surgeries and eight hospitals across the UK. The tests will provide an "early warning" if the virus is spreading, Public Health England's Prof Paul Cosford said.

Coronavirus: Britons returning from northern Italy told to self-isolate

26 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Children returning from holidays in northern Italy have been sent home from school after new government health advice on the coronavirus. Four schools in England have shut completely for a "deep clean" after pupils came back from skiing trips. The Foreign Office has now updated its travel advice, warning against all but essential travel to 11 quarantined towns in Italy.

Coronavirus: How is the UK planning for an outbreak?

27 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Coronavirus has been seen in more than 30 countries, with signs it is getting a foothold in Europe. But what is the government planning to do if there is a major outbreak in the UK and how prepared is the NHS?

Northern Ireland diagnoses first coronavirus case

27 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Northern Ireland has diagnosed its first case of coronavirus, bringing the UK's total to 16. Authorities said the patient had travelled from northern Italy via Dublin and had showed a presumptive positive result, which would be confirmed by a lab in England.

Coronavirus: First Welsh case among three new UK diagnoses

28 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Three more cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed in the UK, including the first one in Wales. This brings the total number of cases in the UK to 19 - following the first confirmed case in Northern Ireland on Thursday.

NHS comments on coronavirus 'drive through' testing service

28 Feb 2020 Source: NHS Digital <https://digital.nhs.uk/>

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. The new service, provided by Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust in Parsons Green, is only accessed through a referral from NHS

111, and means people worried about the virus can safely and quickly get checked close to home.

Coronavirus: 'Nothing ruled out' in government's virus battle tactics

01 Mar 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

No tactics will be "off the table" in the UK government's plan to contain coronavirus, the health secretary says. Matt Hancock said an emergency "battle plan", drawn up if the virus spreads further, includes banning big events, closing schools and dissuading people from using public transport.

Coronavirus: information for councils

01 Mar 2020 Source: Local Government Assoc. <http://www.local.gov.uk/>

Useful information for councils on novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Coronavirus: Widespread transmission in UK 'highly likely'

02 Mar 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Widespread transmission of coronavirus in the UK is now "highly likely", Public Health England (PHE) has said. Director for Health Protection Paul Cosford said the country must be prepared. The prime minister will chair a meeting of the government's emergency Cobra committee later, after the number of UK coronavirus cases jumped to 36.

NHS 111 Online To Help People With Coronavirus

02 Mar 2020 Source: NHS England <https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

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.

Coronavirus: School closures and travel curbs in UK plans

03 Mar 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Plans to contain coronavirus if it spreads, involving possible school closures, cancelling events and bringing NHS staff out of retirement, are to be set out by the UK government. Unnecessary travel could be curbed and people urged to work from home. Legislation will be introduced to ensure ministers have the powers to prepare for a widespread outbreak.

Coronavirus action plan launched

03 Mar 2020 Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

The action plan provides information on the government's plans to contain the spread of coronavirus and what action could be taken if the virus does spread.

See also [**Looking after your mental health during the Coronavirus outbreak**](#) in the Mental Health section

Diet & nutrition

No proof that the Mediterranean diet reduces frailty in older age

18 Feb 2020

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

Mail Online reports that eating a Mediterranean diet "for just one year reduces frailty and keeps mind sharp in old age", while the Express carried a similar message. Despite these positive reports, the study in question provides no proof that eating a Mediterranean diet reduces frailty or improves memory.

Western-style diet may impair memory and encourage unhealthy eating

19 Feb 2020

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

"Researchers find a western-style diet can impair brain function," reports The Guardian. An experiment on 110 students at an Australian university found that those asked to eat Belgian waffles and fast food performed worse on learning and memory tests after a week than those who ate their regular diet.

Is it easier to burn off a big breakfast than a big dinner?

20 Feb 2020

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

"Eat a big breakfast to lose weight fast – you'll 'burn twice as many calories'," reports The Sun. The advice to eat more at breakfast than at dinner has long been proposed to help people trying to lose weight. The idea is that calories consumed at the start of the day are more likely to be burned off than those consumed in the evening.

A diet high in fruit, veg, fibre and dairy is linked to lower stroke risk, study finds

25 Feb 2020

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

Various media sources have reported that eating fruit, vegetables, fibre and dairy is linked with a lower risk of stroke. This follows a large European cohort study that looked at the link between different food groups and the risk of stroke in more than 400,000 people (average age 50 years) from 9 European countries.

Food allergy symposium brings industry, enforcement and consumers together for the first time

26 Feb 2020

Source: Food Standards Agency <https://www.food.gov.uk/>

The reality of living with a food allergy, the practicalities of good allergen management and the emerging opportunities and challenges in the food chain were all discussed at the Food Standards Agency's first ever allergy symposium.

Sugary fizzy drinks could affect your cholesterol level

27 Feb 2020

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

"One fizzy drink per day can cause a heart attack," warns Metro, while the Mail Online claims that "Just one full-fat fizzy drink a day in your 40s may 'increase your risk of a heart attack or stroke'"

Disability

Vehicles to meet disabled people's needs

19 Feb 2020

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

Motability Scheme accredited to provide wide choice of vehicles at affordable rates. Disabled people will continue to be able to lease mobility vehicles under Scotland's new social security system. The Scottish Government has accredited the charity Motability Scheme to provide cars, wheelchair accessible vehicles, scooters and powered wheelchairs that can be adapted to meet disabled people's needs.

Drug Misuse

Independent report: Review of drugs: phase one report

27 Feb 2020

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

In February 2019, the Home Secretary appointed Professor Dame Carol Black to undertake an independent review of drugs. This was to inform the government's thinking on what more can be done to tackle the harm that drugs cause. Dame Carol's response to phase one of the commission provides a detailed analysis of the challenges posed by drug supply and demand, including the ways in which drugs fuel serious violence.

See also [Alcohol and Drugs - How PCCs are making a difference](#) in the Alcohol misuse section

Environmental health

Children facing uncertain future, experts warn

19 Feb 2020

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

No country offers a child both the chance of a healthy upbringing and an environment fit for their future, the World Health Organization (WHO) says. Experts say climate change and harmful advertising encouraging fast-food consumption and under-age drinking are putting children at risk. The UK was ranked among the top 10 countries in the world for the overall health and wellbeing of children. However, it fell behind in safeguarding the environment for their future.

Air pollution: applying All Our Health

20 Feb 2020

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

This guide is part of 'All Our Health', a resource which helps health and care professionals prevent ill health and promote wellbeing as part of their everyday practice. This information will help frontline health and care staff use their trusted relationships with patients, families, and communities to take action on the health effects of air pollution.

Government takes action to cut pollution from household burning

21 Feb 2020

Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural

<http://www.gov.uk/>

Sales of house coal and wet wood in England will be phased out from next year to cut pollution.

Health promotion

[Cadbury egg hunt: Health campaigners celebrate end of National Trust deal](#)

20 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

The National Trust has said this year's Easter egg hunts will be the last with Cadbury as it seeks to focus on "nature and the outdoors". Annual egg hunts have taken place for 13 years, but the trust said it wanted to make chocolate "less of a focus". Health campaigners said they "applaud" the trust for ending the "unhealthy association" with sugary food.

[New pharmacy referral service to help patients avoid hospital readmission](#)

23 Feb 2020 Source: Dept. of Health and Social Care <https://www.gov.uk/>

Patients who have recently been discharged from hospital will get greater support from local pharmacy teams to manage their medicines.

[Poorest women's life expectancy declines, finds report](#)

25 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

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. The largest decreases were seen in the most deprived areas of north-east England, while the biggest increases were in the richest parts of London.

[Marmot Review 10 Years On](#)

25 Feb 2020 Source: Institute of Health Equity
<http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/>

Ten years since the publication of The Marmot Review, for the first time in more than 100 years life expectancy has failed to increase across the country, and for the poorest 10% of women it has actually declined. Over the last decade health inequalities have widened overall, and the amount of time people spend in poor health has increased since 2010.

#Marmot2020 confirms an increase in the north/south health gap, where the largest decreases were seen in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in the North East, and the largest increases in the least deprived 10% of neighbourhoods in London.

[How can health and care services better support people who sleep rough?](#)

14 Feb 2020 Source: Kings Fund Health and Wellbeing Bulletin
<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/>

The woman who spoke to us about what it was like sleeping rough looked so young and vulnerable. She told us she slept in a tent, on waste ground, with an iron bar to hand. But she didn't just look vulnerable, she was vulnerable. I knew her situation was likely to

take a significant toll on her health. In 2018 the average age of death for people who died while experiencing homelessness was more than 30 years below that of the general population, with women on average dying at the age of 43 years old – 38 years earlier than women in the general population.

[Delivering health and care for people who sleep rough: going above and beyond](#)

03 Mar 2020

Source: Kings Fund <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/>

The King's Fund published new research into health and care for people who sleep rough. Many people who sleep rough experience challenges that most of the wider population find difficult to truly understand. This may be why many routine health and care services – despite being designed with deep values of equity and fairness – fail to meet the needs of people sleeping rough. Our research starts to answer the question of what needs to be in place for the delivery of joined-up services to a population of people sleeping rough – as a system, rather than a discrete collection of services

Health services administration

[Sickest NHS patients 'face hours on trolleys'](#)

26 Feb 2020

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

Many of the most seriously ill patients are waiting for hours on trolleys and in corridors as the NHS struggles to find them beds, BBC research shows. Nearly a quarter of patients admitted on to wards during December and January in England faced delays of more than four hours before a bed could be found.

Mental health

[Mental Health Foundation publishes major new report on social inequalities and mental health problems](#)

13 Feb 2020

Source: Mental Health Foundation

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

The briefing paper aims to help people to understand the huge role that social and economic inequalities play in causing mental health problems and what can be done to reduce their negative mental health effects.

[Looking after your mental health during the Coronavirus outbreak](#)

13 Feb 2020

Source: Mental Health Foundation

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

Infectious disease outbreaks, like the current Coronavirus, can be scary and can affect our mental health. While it is important to stay informed, there are many things we can do to manage our wellbeing.

[Jake Paul criticised after anxiety advice tweet](#)

18 Feb 2020

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

Jake Paul has been heavily criticised after telling Twitter followers to "remember anxiety is created by you". His comments provoked a strong reaction online, where people suffering from anxiety condemned the "dangerous" advice. Others sarcastically thanked him for his suggestions. The YouTuber, who has close to 20 million subscribers on the video-sharing platform, subsequently deleted his tweet.

NHS 'took 18 months to help after suicide attempt'

21 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

Poor treatment and aftercare for people who self-harm or attempt suicide is putting their lives at risk, the Royal College of Psychiatrists says. Many patients treated in A&E for self-harm do not receive a full psychosocial assessment from a mental health professional to assess suicide risk.

1 in 5 mental health patients don't feel safe in NHS care, Ombudsman finds

19 Feb 2020 Source: Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
<https://www.ombudsman.org.uk>

A new survey published today by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman found that one in five people did not feel safe while in the care of the NHS mental health service that treated them.

Down's syndrome: Campaigners say abortions 'need 24-week limit'

24 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A law allowing parents to terminate pregnancies where the foetus has Down's syndrome at any time up until its birth should be changed, campaigners say. They have written to Health Secretary Matt Hancock saying all non-fatal disabilities should be subject to the standard 24-week abortion limit.

Thousands of depression cases 'linked to universal credit'

28 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A study has linked a spike in mental-health problems among the unemployed with the rollout of universal credit and other government welfare changes. The number of unemployed people with psychological distress rose 6.6% between 2013 and 2018, it suggests. And this represents an extra 63,674 people in England, Wales and Scotland - 21,760 of whom became clinically depressed over the period. The government highlighted the study found no causal link.

Obesity

Child obesity: patterns and trends

26 Feb 2020 Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

Slide sets presenting the latest data on child obesity in England and the 9 English regions.

Adult obesity: patterns and trends

26 Feb 2020 Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

Slide sets presenting the latest data on adult obesity in England.

Older people

[Older people's hospital admissions in the last year of life](#)

25 Feb 2020

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

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. The hospital admissions considered include emergency admissions, planned admissions and day cases. It describes the number and type of admissions and the proportion that were emergency admissions within 30 days of a previous discharge.

See also [It's time to face the taboo around older people having sex](#) in the Sexual health section

Prison health

[Small-brain link to long-term antisocial behaviour](#)

18 Feb 2020

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

People who steal, bully and lie throughout their lives may have smaller brains, researchers say. MRI scans suggested 45-year-olds who had shown antisocial behaviour from childhood had reduced surface area and a thinner cortex in parts of the brain previously linked to such behaviour. But it is unclear if this was inherited or due to factors such as substance abuse, low IQ or poor mental health.

[Locked out? Prisoners' use of hospital care](#)

Feb 2020

Source: Nuffield Trust <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/>

This research shows that four in ten hospital appointments made for prisoners were cancelled or missed in 2017/18 and that more than one in ten pregnant prisoners gave birth either in prison or on their way to hospital.

Safety

[Heather Planner died after being given other patient's medicine](#)

27 Feb 2020

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

An 87-year-old woman died after her carers gave her the wrong medication, a coroner was told. Heather Planner, from Butler's Cross in Buckinghamshire, died at Wycombe Hospital on 1 April from a stroke. Senior coroner Crispin Butler heard three staff from Carewatch Mid Bucks had failed to spot tablets handed over by the pharmacy were for a male patient

See also [Heart doctors 'held back stent death data'](#) in the Chronic conditions section

Sexual health

[Build a culture that supports people's sexual needs and keeps them safe from harm, says new report](#)

27 Feb 2020 Source: Care Quality Commission <http://www.cqc.org.uk>

How can adult social care services best support people to express their sexuality? And how do they keep people safe from sexual harm? Our new report, published today, looks at these issues and explores the link between the two.

[It's time to face the taboo around older people having sex](#)

25 Feb 2020 Source: Terrence Higgins Trust <https://www.tht.org.uk>

STIs in the over 50s are increasing. Good sexual health shouldn't just be for the young says Terrence Higgins Trust's HIV & Ageing Lead Clive Blowes.

[NHS gender clinic 'should have challenged me more' over transition](#)

01 Mar 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A 23-year-old woman who is taking legal action against an NHS gender clinic says she should have been challenged more by medical staff over her decision to transition to a male as a teenager. A judge gave the go-ahead for a full hearing of the case against the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust.

Smoking

[Case study: Designing a smoking cessation intervention](#)

26 Feb 2020 Source: Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/>

How a smoking cessation intervention for people with common mental health problems in a psychological services setting has been designed.

Social & economic issues

[Care provider Hft to shut services due to 'underfunding'](#)

17 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A care charity that provides services for about 90 adults in Oxfordshire says it will shut them by the end of May. Hft, which runs several services in Milton, near Didcot, said running them was leaving it with a £5,000 shortfall every week. Its chief executive said that was the result of "chronic underfunding of adult social care".

[Germany overturns ban on professionally assisted suicide](#)

26 Feb 2020 Source: BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

A five-year-old law banning professionally assisted suicide has been rejected as unconstitutional by Germany's top court. The court backed complaints by a group of terminally ill patients and doctors who challenged the law that made "commercial promotion of assisted suicide" a criminal offence.

Women's health

[Support for mesh victims](#)

23 Feb 2020

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

Case note review to take place in spring. Women who have concerns about their mesh removal procedure are to be offered a sit-down review of their patient notes with independent clinicians.

[Women with endometriosis 'finally being believed'](#)

03 Mar 2020

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

A woman who had to change careers because of endometriosis has said an improvement in attitude towards women with the condition feels "incredible". Endometriosis affects one in 10 UK women and can cause debilitating pain, very heavy periods and infertility.

See also [Poorest women's life expectancy declines, finds report](#) in the Health promotion section

Workplace health

[Violence against NHS staff: letter to the workforce](#)

18 Feb 2020

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

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock writes to all NHS staff about the problem of violence faced by those working for the NHS.

Local news: []

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Other Bulletins
<p>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/</p>
<p>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/</p>
<p>Healthcare Public Health Monthly bulletin containing news and information about key public health issues including health service commissioning, updates from Public Health England, local authorities, Faculty of Public Health and others agencies, resources and good practice. http://www.healthcarepublichealth.net/newsletters.php</p>
<p>PHE Bulletin (Public Health England) The PHE Bulletin is issued monthly and contains public health news and information. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/phe-bulletin</p>
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