

Reports

[Response to ACMD drug misuse prevention review](#)

The government responds to advice from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) on preventing drug misuse among vulnerable groups of people.

[IHPN releases Community Health Services report “What does good look like?”](#)

Today IHPN released a report on Community Health Services called “What does good look like”, which includes an overview of community health services in England, along with sixteen case studies from IHPN member organisations. The case studies cover areas including workforce, service demand, quality, commissioning challenges, and what is new in the community services space.

[How improved community data unlocks NHS efficiency](#)

In the first of our two-part series on realising NHS efficiencies through community healthcare, we look at how improvements to community services data can result in more efficient investment.

[Our new report issues recommendations to tackle diabetes inequality in the UK](#)

The ‘Tackling Inequality Commission Report’ has been informed by the experiences of more than 100 people living with diabetes across the UK. It sets out the findings of the Diabetes UK Tackling Inequality Commission, which was established earlier this year. The commission looked at the multiple factors that contribute to health inequality in diabetes, particularly for people living in deprivation and for Black and South Asian communities.

[Be the Change: How to tackle racial inequalities in health and care charities](#)

With unacceptable statistics, like Black women are four times more likely to die around pregnancy than White women, and Black babies are almost three times more likely to die than White babies – still now, in 2023 – the need for effective action could not be stronger.

Guidance

[The offender personality disorder \(OPD\) pathway: a joint strategy for 2023 to 2028](#)

The OPD pathway is a set of psychologically-informed services operating across criminal justice and health, underpinned by a set of principles and quality standards. Using evidence-based relational and environmental approaches, it aims to reduce risk associated with serious reoffending and improve mental health within a high-risk, high-harm cohort likely to meet the clinical threshold for a diagnosis of ‘personality disorder’. The OPD pathway is a jointly funded partnership between His Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service and NHS England.

[Information for healthcare professionals caring for older people during cold weather](#)

This article lays out UK Health Security Agency’s guidance on how healthcare professionals can best prepare for cold weather and how to look after older adults when temperatures drop below freezing.

Briefing

[A Mental Health Commissioner for England](#)

In its report on the Government’s draft Mental Health Bill, a Committee of MPs and Peers made a new recommendation for the establishment of a Mental Health Commissioner for England. But what would this role look like, and how could it benefit the public? This briefing explores the opportunity for the creation of a new statutory Mental Health Commissioner, drawing on international evidence from Commissions in other countries.



Statistics

[Substance misuse treatment for adults: statistics 2022 to 2023](#)

Statistics on alcohol and drug misuse treatment for adults from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

Reviews

[Creative Health Review](#)

The Review highlights the potential for creative health to help tackle pressing issues in health and social care and more widely, including health inequalities and the additional challenges we face as we recover from Covid-19. The Review has gathered evidence that shows the benefits of creative health in relation to major current challenges, and examples of where this is already working in practice.

Blogs

[Listening to patients and organisations to update NICE's quality standard on transition from children's to adults' services](#)

NICE quality standards set out priority areas for quality improvement in health, public health and social care. They include a small number of concise statements describing the priorities, together with information on how to measure progress. Our previous quality standard on the transition from children's to adults' services was first published in 2016, based on the NICE guideline published in the same year, and has now been updated to ensure it remains current.

[Can weight loss drugs 'solve' obesity?](#)

Emerging weight-loss drugs hold game-changing potential as part of a prevention-focused obesity strategy. The new generation of weight loss medicines are an important treatment tool that could accelerate our mission to halve obesity, but they would fall very far short as the cornerstone of a national obesity strategy.

News

[Plans progressed to create a smokefree generation](#)

Public consultation on historic proposals draws to a close with roughly 25,000 responses from teachers, parents, healthcare professionals and the public.

[Government to protect care home, hospital and hospice visiting](#)

Consultation response published setting out plans to make visiting a fundamental standard of care.

[Patients and pharmacies to benefit from changes to supervision](#)

Plans to make better use of pharmacies, improve access to primary care and maximise the contribution of pharmacy professionals set out in new consultation.

[Booking a jab "as easy as booking a cab" in NHS App overhaul](#)

The NHS is setting out how it will increase national uptake of lifesaving vaccinations, ensuring millions more people receive protection against a range of diseases. Published today, the ambitious [NHS vaccination strategy](#) will outline how getting vaccinations will be made easier than ever before, including through expansion of the NHS App, 'one stop shops' and community outreach.



[Hospital admissions due to smoking up nearly 5% last year, NHS data shows](#)

Smoking-related hospital admissions in England increased by nearly 5% in 2022-23, compared to the previous year, but remain lower than before the Covid pandemic. Latest statistics from NHS England show that in 2022-23 there were an estimated 408,700 hospital admissions due to smoking, a rise from 389,800 in 2021-22 (an increase of 4.8%).

[Cancer signs on urinal mats in pubs and football grounds, as part of major new NHS cancer catching drive](#)

Urinal mats in public places in England will begin to carry blood in pee cancer warnings for men, as part of a major new NHS earlier diagnosis drive. The NHS and P-Wave, a leading urinal products brand, are working together to put the message "Blood in your pee? Contact your GP practice" on urinal mats in thousands of men's toilets across the country.

[Children's mental health being threatened by mounting financial pressures on families, says Centre for Mental Health report](#)

Children's mental health is being jeopardised by financial pressures on parents, overcrowded housing and lack of safe green spaces, according to new research by Centre for Mental Health. The research finds that while parents and carers play a key role in children's healthy social development, the cost-of-living crisis and other financial pressures are putting families under strain as they struggle to make ends meet.

[Updated information regarding the shortage of ADHD medication](#)

Since our initial communication regarding the shortage of ADHD medication on 19 October, further guidance has been issued to support clinicians in the treatment of relevant patients during the ongoing issues being experienced in accessing medication.

[UKHSA urges people from ethnic minority groups to protect themselves with vaccines](#)

UKHSA is strongly encouraging eligible people from ethnic minority groups, particularly people from the Pakistani and black Caribbean ethnic groups and individuals living in more deprived areas, to book their flu and COVID-19 vaccines. This will protect them and their families against the heightened risks of these infections during winter.

[Eligible people urged to get vaccinated as flu cases rise](#)

This week's UKHSA surveillance data shows the sharpest weekly increase in flu activity so far this winter, signalling flu season is officially underway.

[General practice and the concept of health security partnership](#)

The concept of national "health security partnership" is one that I had never given much thought, when reflecting on the many roles of a General Practitioner. The recent detection of the Influenza A(H1N2) virus in a human in the UK has however made me ponder. After a little bit of research, I have come to realise that GPs play a pivotal role in safeguarding health security, not just within our local regions but the United Kingdom at large.

[People with high genetic risk of heart disease benefit most from switching sitting for physical activity](#)

People who spent more time on moderate to vigorous exercise, and less time sitting, had a lower risk of heart disease, regardless of their genetic makeup. Research found that people with the highest genetic risk benefitted most. In this group, switching sitting for physical activity (brisk walking or cycling, for example) was associated with a greater reduction in the risk of developing heart disease (compared with those with the lowest genetic risk).

[Creating tailored health information for people experiencing homelessness](#)

Fiona Campbell and Taylor Haws from the Single Homeless project share their top tips for creating health resources with empathy and sensitivity.

[Millions of people with cardiovascular disease could benefit from a new cholesterol treatment target recommendation](#)

Up to 2.1 million people with cardiovascular disease (CVD) could benefit from a new cholesterol target outlined in NICE guidance for the first time.

[Social isolation and loneliness linked to poor health – our study could help explain why](#)

Numerous studies have shown that social isolation and loneliness are associated with an increased risk of early death, on a scale comparable to other known risk factors such as smoking and obesity. This year, the US surgeon general declared social isolation and loneliness to be a significant public health concern.

[Whooping cough cases increasing in the UK – what you need to know](#)

You may have read recent alarming reports of a cough that “lasts 100 days” is “quickly spreading across the UK” and can “fracture ribs”. If you didn’t look beyond the headlines, you might have missed the fact that the reports are about whooping cough. So, what is going on?

[Cancer: people living in England’s poorest areas at higher risk of death – new study](#)

Nationally, the risk of dying from most cancers is falling thanks to improvements in screening, diagnostics and treatment. But new research shows stark health inequalities still exist in England when it comes to cancer care. The study found that people who live in the poorest parts of England have more than a 70% higher risk of dying from cancer compared with those who live in more affluent areas.