KnowledgeShare

NHS information support for evidence-based practice
Alert 130
Selected resources published in January/ February 2025

Content

Corridor Care: The New Normal?

Patients receiving care in unsuitable and unsafe environments, such as corridors and converted cupboards, have been increasingly highlighted in recent publications. This was drawn into sharper focus by a report published in January by the Royal College of Nursing. It featured testimonials taken from a survey of 5,408 nurses from across the UK during December 2024 and January 2025.

66.81% responded saying they daily delivered care in inappropriate environments and 90.82% felt that patient safety was compromised as a result. This follows the autumn publication of NHS England's guidance "Principles for providing safe and good quality care in temporary escalation spaces (TES)", which was criticised by professional bodies, including the Royal College of Emergency Medicine who branded it the "normalisation of the unacceptable and dangerous".

While NHSE's guidance begins with the statement that use of TES should not be considered as standard, the testimonials contained within the RCN's report attest to how customary care delivery in unsuitable environments has become. Structural changes to hospital corridors and designation of corridor care nurses add weight to this evidence.

The RCN report emphasises both the risks to the safety of patients in these conditions and toll on those caring for them. The legal implications of any incidents arising from them are discussed by the patient safety commentator Associate Professor John Tingle who states that clinical negligence claims may be possible in some circumstances, and the extent to which lack of resources will be a defence is unclear.

Acknowledging the predictability of patient flow into different care environments, such as the Emergency Department and in-patient wards, one may be viewed differently to the other in terms of assessing the standard of care to be expected in that context. The two key considerations are 1) What is foreseeable? and 2) What is reasonable? (Tingle, 2025)

Read: On the frontline of the UK's corridor care crisis (RCN, 2025)
Read: Examining the issue of corridor care, NHS patient safety and the law (Tingle, 2025)

Patient Experience and Safety

Guideline / Policy

Radiographer Preliminary Clinical Evaluation.
Society of Radiographers (SoR); 2024.
https://www.sor.org/learning-advice/professional-body-guidance-and-publications/documents-and-publications/policy-guidance-document-library/radiographer-preliminary-clinical-evaluation
[This guidance sets out the background, justification and evidence for radiographer Preliminary Clinical Evaluation (PCE) and proposes a toolkit for local service implementation.]

Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis and Scoping Reviews

Avoiding 'second victims' in healthcare: what support do staff want for coping with patient safety incidents, what do they get and is it effective? A systematic review. [Abstract]
Simms-Ellis R. *BMJ Open* 2025;15(2):e087512.
Check for full-text availability
[Beyond peer support, organisational support for patient safety incidents appears to be misaligned with staff desires. Gaps exist in providing preparatory/preventive interventions and practical support and guidance. Reliable effectiveness data are lacking. Very few studies incorporated comparison groups or randomisation; most used self-report measures. Despite inconclusive evidence, formal peer support programmes dominate.]

Digital Health Technology Interventions for Improving Medication Safety: Systematic Review of Economic Evaluations. [Abstract]
Insani WN. *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 2025;27:e65546.
Check for full-text availability
[Digital health technology (DHT) interventions are economically viable to improve medication safety, with a substantial reduction in adverse drug events (ADEs) and medication errors. Future studies should prioritize incorporating alert compliance tracking, ADE and error severity classification, and evaluation of indirect costs, thereby increasing clinical benefits and economic viability.]

Effectiveness of safety-netting approaches for acutely ill children: a network meta-analysis. [Abstract]
Burvenich R. *British Journal of General Practice* 2025;75(751):e90-e97.
Check for full-text availability
[Safety-netting advice (SNA) can help in the management of acutely ill children. Paper SNA (with oral SNA) may reduce antibiotic use and return visits. Video, oral, and online SNA may improve parental knowledge, whereas video SNA and web-based modules may increase parental satisfaction.]

Implementation strategies of fall prevention interventions in hospitals: a systematic review. [Abstract]
Spoon D. *BMJ Open Quality* 2024;13(4):e003006.
Check for full-text availability
[This review emphasises that the documented strategies for implementing FPIs do not provide adequate details in their reporting. This, in turn, hinders clinicians and researchers from optimally guiding their quality improvement projects.]

Report

Safety management: accountability across organisational boundaries.
Health Services Safety Investigations Body (HSSIB); 2025.
https://www.hssib.org.uk/patient-safety-investigations/safety-management/investigation-report/
[This report is intended for health care organisations, policy-makers and the public to help improve patient safety in relation to the management of patient safety risks across organisational boundaries.]

ADCS safeguarding pressures research – phase 9.
Association of Directors of Children's Services; 2025.
https://www.adcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ADCS_Safeguarding_Pressures_Phase9_FINAL.pdf
[This research highlights changes in safeguarding activity which have not previously been seen, or not previously seen to this extent. A key theme was health challenges, from the impact of delayed access to assessment or treatment plans for parents and carers, to growing concerns about poor mental health among adolescents. The research finds that, for the first time, poor parental mental health has overtaken domestic abuse as the most common factor in children's social care assessments.]

Knowledge is Power report
Patient Information Forum (PIF); 2024.
https://pifonline.org.uk/resources/knowledge-is-power/
[Research by the Patient Information Forum (PIF) and Ipsos reveals inequalities in access to health information and the impact of misinformation.]

Managing and Leading People

Guideline / Policy

Involving nurse leaders in strategic health workforce planning: an ICN policy guide – 2025.
International Council of Nurses (ICN); 2025.
https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/2025-02/ICN_StrategicHealthWorkforcePlanning_PolicyGuide_EN_FINAL.pdf
[This publication is a practical guide to including nurses in workforce planning decisions. It provides guidance on how to engage nurses in the process and access the knowledge, insight and expertise of the nursing profession to better shape and drive health workforce plans for the entire health workforce.]

Supporting and managing anaesthetists with performance concerns.
Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA); 2024.
https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2024-12/Supporting%20and%20managing%20anaesthetists%20with%20Performance%20concerns%202024_0.pdf
[This guidance document draws on existing guidance and summarises the approach to be used in supporting and managing anaesthetists with performance concerns.]

Report

Annual assessment of integrated care boards 2023/24.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/annual-assessment-of-integrated-care-boards-2023-24/
[Under the terms of the NHS Act 2006, amended by the Health and Care Act 2022, NHS England is required to assess the performance of each integrated care board (ICB) and publish a summary of the outcomes of its assessments. This report does so for 2023/24, the first full year of ICBs being in operation. It is important to note that this report summarises an assessment of performance during the 2023/24 financial year and reflects NHS England's views relating to that period only.]

The role of the nurse leader in facilitating effective support and communication to raise concerns.
[Abstract]
Norman K. *British Journal of Nursing* 2025;34(3):154-158.
Check for full-text availability
[This article examines several factors that can affect how raising of concerns can be supported. Nurse leaders play a vital role in this process to maintain patient safety and act accordingly within the Nursing and Midwifery Council Code. Considerations are provided to explore how the nurse leader can facilitate communication with all team members to influence organisational culture, where colleagues feel confident in voicing concerns.]

What do we know about young people's interest in health careers?
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); 2025.
https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/what-do-we-know-about-young-people-s-interest-in-health-careers_002b3a39-en.html
[There are growing concerns that difficult working conditions in the health sector, combined with relatively low pay for some categories of workers, may deter young people from pursuing careers in health. This technical report reviews available data on students' interest in health sector jobs.]

What does the NHS staff survey tell us about the changing behaviours and motivation of health care staff?
The Nuffield Trust; 2025.
https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/what-does-the-nhs-staff-survey-tell-us-about-the-changing-behaviours-and-motivation-of-health-care-staff
[Over the past decade younger NHS staff have reported lower job satisfaction, higher stress levels, & greater dissatisfaction with pay than their older colleagues, according to this new analysis of over a million NHS staff survey responses. Do these trends reflect changing generational attitudes to work, or are they in fact shaped by wider workforce and societal pressures?]

Professional Development

CIPD Change Management Conference 2025.
[A full day of dynamic learning designed to equip you with the latest strategies and skills to lead impactful, sustainable change. This year's Conference dives deep into the essentials of the change journey, covering everything from building a culture ready for transformation to measuring and validating the impact of change initiatives. *'Please note this is a paid-for event. You should check your local training offer and funding arrangements before booking*]
Leonardo Royal Hotel London
All day event on: 28th April, 2025
https://events.cipd.co.uk/change-management

Toolkit

Employee voice factsheet.
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD); 2025.
https://www.cipd.org/en/knowledge/factsheets/voice-factsheet/
[This factsheet explores employee voice and its different forms in an organisation. It looks at the changing nature of voice and influence in the employment relationship, mechanisms for participation, whistleblowing and how employers can create a safe environment where individuals feel able to speak up.]

Education and Professional Practice

Guideline / Policy

Good practice guidance for enabling equitable access to clinical imaging referrals for registered healthcare professionals working in advancing practice roles.
Royal College of Radiologists (RCR); 2025.
https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-services/all-our-publications/clinical-radiology-publications/good-practice-guidance-for-enabling-equitable-access-to-clinical-imaging-referrals-for-registered-healthcare-professionals-working-in-advancing-practice-roles/
[This good practice guidance and accompanying infographic outlines principles for ensuring more consistent and equitable access to clinical imaging requests for registered healthcare professionals working in multi-professional enhanced, advanced, or consultant practice roles.]

Interim guidance for physician associates working in the medical specialties.
Royal College of Physicians (RCP); 2024.
https://www.rcp.ac.uk/policy-and-campaigns/policy-documents/interim-guidance-for-physician-associates-working-in-the-medical-specialties/
[Developed by the RCP oversight group for activity related to PAs, this interim guidance on the scope, supervision and employment of PAs is approved by RCP Council and acts as a placeholder to ensure patient safety and support physicians and the wider healthcare team until the independent review of PA and anaesthesia associate professions (the Leng review) reports its findings.]

Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis and Scoping Reviews

A systematic review of the impact of artificial intelligence on educational outcomes in health professions education. [Abstract]
Feigerlova E. *BMC Medical Education* 2025;25(1):129.
Check for full-text availability
[Artificial intelligence (AI) has a variety of potential applications in health professions education and assessment; however, measurable educational impacts of AI-based educational strategies on learning outcomes have not been systematically evaluated. A systematic literature search was conducted using electronic databases (CINAHL Plus, EMBASE, Proquest, Pubmed, Cochrane Library, and Web of Science) to identify studies published until October 1st 2024.]

A systematic review of virtual elective programmes for medical students. [Abstract]
McCarron L. *The Clinical Teacher* 2025;22(1):e13841.
Check for full-text availability
[Clinical electives are a compulsory part of many medical courses, enabling students to gain exposure to foreign health systems. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a surge in the development in virtual elective programmes, for which there had been a sparse evidence base. This is the first systematic review assessing the implementation, advantages and disadvantages of virtual elective programmes for medical students.]

Comparing the efficacy of live vs. video instructional demonstrations in dental education: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [Abstract]
AlKahtani RN. *BMC Medical Education* 2025;25(1):108.
Check for full-text availability
[This systematic review and meta-analysis were conducted to investigate the effects of live and video demonstrations of various dental procedures on undergraduate students' performance and satisfaction scores. a comprehensive search was conducted across multiple databases, including MEDLINE (OVID), PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science, supplemented by a manual search of bibliographic references from retrieved articles.]

Effect of virtual reality training on clinical skills of nursing students: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.
Lin M. *Nurse Education in Practice* 2024;81:104182.
[This review aimed to assess the effects of virtual reality training on the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains in nursing education among nursing students. The use of virtual reality in nursing education immerses students in realistic and interactive environments, greatly enhancing their learning experiences. However, research on its effectiveness in nursing education has shown inconsistent results, particularly regarding its impact on learner emotions related to clinical skills.]

Identifying Unique Integrated Care Competencies to Inform Health Profession Curriculum Development. [Abstract]
Moran M. *The Clinical Teacher* 2025;22(1):e70027.
Check for full-text availability
[Integrated care can enhance health outcomes for patients, as well as improve healthcare efficiency for organisations. However, it is unclear what values and competencies health professionals need to develop at the pre-qualification stage to engage in integrated care practice upon graduation. Therefore, this review aimed to identify published integrated care competencies for professional entry health professional education programmes.]

Impact of station number and duration time per station on the reliability of Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) scores: a systematic review and meta-analysis. [Abstract]
Peng Q. *BMC Medical Education* 2025;25(1):84.
Check for full-text availability
[The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a systematic and structured assessment tool that evaluates candidates' professional medical skills in a simulated environment through a series of time-limited stations. The aim of this meta-analysis was to determine the optimal station number and duration time per station of OSCE to achieve good reliability.]

Is virtual reality enhancing dental anatomy education? A systematic review and meta-analysis. [Abstract]
Bevizova K. *BMC Medical Education* 2024;24(1):1395.
Check for full-text availability
[Traditional dental anatomy education, reliant on cadaver dissections and lectures, faces challenges such as high costs, ethical concerns, and difficulty conveying complex 3D dental structures. Virtual reality (VR) offers a solution by providing immersive, interactive learning environments that can enhance students' understanding. This study systematically reviews the effectiveness of VR in dental anatomy education compared to traditional methods.]

Supporting health and social care practitioners to transition to academia: A systematic review.
Lesley Gratrix. *Nurse Education Today* 2025;146:106517.
[When people transition from health and social care roles to academia, they face overwhelming feelings of a loss of identity which impacts their confidence and feelings of security. Adjusting to this change in identity takes time and support which higher education establishments can help to prepare for. Helping people see the transition as an identity change rather than a loss of their expert status could aid in feelings of career progression rather than stagnation or regression.]

Toolkit

A Framework for Implementing Community-Based Dental Education. [Abstract]
Taylor M. *The Clinical Teacher* 2025;22(1):e70017.
Check for full-text availability
[This paper introduces a practical toolbox to support community-based dental education program implementation. Developed from an extensive literature review, analysis of relevant case studies, and insights from the authors' experiences, the toolbox provides structured, evidence-based guidance on planning, administration, and ongoing evaluation for CBDE programs.]

How to … Build a Peer Reviewer Community in Health Professions Education. [Abstract]
Lim JJ. *The Clinical Teacher* 2025;22(1):e70009.
Check for full-text availability
[In this 'How to …' paper, we demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of establishing a community of practice (CoP) aimed at fostering professional development among multiprofessional early-career scholars in health professions education. A CoP is structured around three core components: domain, community and practice. This community's domain focuses on recruiting scholars with a shared interest in health professions education, research and peer review.]

Implementing a hosting model in general practice for adult nursing.
Brown D. *Practice Nursing* 2024;35(11):388-391.
[The demand for nurses working in general practice settings is rapidly outstripping supply. This article outlines an initiative aimed at hosting students in general practice. Increasing student nurses in primary care is seen as a key strategy for encouraging nursing students to opt for a career in primary care. However the organisation of placements generally means that adult nursing students are hosted by secondary care in acute NHS Trusts.]

Finance and Procurement

Guideline / Policy

Decarbonisation of Estates Framework Agreement Reference: SBS10504
NHS Shared Business Services; 2025.
https://www.sbs.nhs.uk/services/framework-agreements/decarbonisation-of-estates/
[The agreement supports both the NHS and wider public sector in achieving its decarbonisation plans by providing the building blocks to get net zero plans off the ground. The framework agreement includes internal and external wall insulation, ground source and air source heat pumps, electric heating solutions, PV systems, ventilation systems, lighting works as well as traditional works such as replacement of windows and doors, and solutions to tackle damp and mould in domestic properties.]

Public health grants to local authorities: 2025 to 2026.
Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2025-to-2026
[The public health allocations and monetary conditions for local authorities to improve health in local populations.]

Social care charging for local authorities: 2025 to 2026.
Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-care-charging-for-local-authorities-2025-to-2026
[Information for local authorities on charging for care and support.]

The Primary Dental Services Statement of Financial Entitlements (Amendment) Directions 2025.
Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-primary-dental-services-statement-of-financial-entitlements-amendment-directions-2025
[Implements changes to the payments made by NHS England to contractors under a dental service contract with effect from 1 April 2024.]

Report

Health care funding projections.
The Health Foundation; 2025.
https://www.health.org.uk/reports-and-analysis/working-papers/health-care-funding-projections
[Health care in the UK is a vital public service that forms a large part of the economy and public spending – equivalent to 9% of GDP. The level of funding is a key determinant of who receives care, which services are available, their quality and how long we might need to wait for care. Projections based on the current levels of health care activity and the changing size and health needs of the population can inform health investment decisions.]

NHS financial sustainability.
Public Accounts Committee; 2025.
https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/46303/documents/233234/default/
[This report argues that, while the government's forthcoming 10-year plan will be essential to the health service's recovery, senior health officials seem to be unambitious when it comes to taking the radical steps to begin to implement it. The government has laid out its planned 'three big shifts': from hospital-based to community care; from analogue to digital; and from treating ill health to prevention. The report makes recommendations in each of

these areas.]

Maintaining public service facilities: cross-government.
National Audit Office (NAO); 2025.
https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/maintaining-public-service-facilities.pdf
[This report finds that maintenance backlogs across key public services, including schools, hospitals and prisons, are estimated to be at least £49 billion. It recommends that government should consider the best way to manage its assets alongside its long-term investment plans, in addition to the cost of ongoing maintenance, to bring property condition to a satisfactory level.]

New Hospital Programme Briefing.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/media/700060/wmh-debate-on-the-new-hospital-programme.pdf
[This briefing covers key aspects of the New Hospital Programme to date, the announcement made by the Secretary of State (20 January 2025) and the perspective of trusts.]

Service Design and Commissioning

Guideline / Policy

2025/26 priorities and operational planning guidance.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/2025-26-priorities-and-operational-planning-guidance/
[In line with the Government Mandate, the 2025/26 priorities and operational planning guidance sets out a focused, smaller number of national priorities for 2025/26 with an emphasis on improving access to timely care for patients, increasing productivity and living within allocated budgets, and driving reform. To support this, systems will have greater control and flexibility over how they use local funding to best meet the needs of their local population.]

Bridging the gap: a guide to making health inequalities a strategic priority for NHS leaders.
Royal College of Physicians (RCP); 2025.
https://www.rcp.ac.uk/media/xhink0ak/bridging-the-gap-making-health-inequalities-a-strategic-priority-for-nhs-leaders.pdf
[This guidance provides actionable steps for tackling health inequity within health care delivery, emphasising the role clinicians and clinical leaders can play in addressing these longstanding disparities. It argues that tackling these disparities is essential to improving the nation's health and reducing unnecessary pressures on health care services. It underscores that NHS leaders have a statutory, moral and financial responsibility to prioritise this issue, and includes.]

Reforming elective care for patients.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/reforming-elective-care-for-patients/
[The new plan sets out how the NHS will reform elective care services and meet the 18 week referral to treatment standard by March 2029. Under this plan elective care will be increasingly personalised and digital, with a focus on improving experience and convenience, and empowering people with choice and control over when and where they will be treated.]

National elective access policy.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-elective-access-policy/
[This policy will support implementation of the updated Recording and reporting guidance. It covers the core principles that all providers and systems should include in their local elective access policies, to support consistent application of waiting times rules and guidance. Local policies should reflect local pathways and implementation plans. E-learning training materials are available to support the consistent use of referral to treatment rules.]

Neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/26.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/neighbourhood-health-guidelines-2025-26/
[These guidelines aim to help integrated care boards, local authorities, and health and care providers continue to progress neighbourhood health in 2025/26 in advance of the publication of the 10-year health plan.]

Standardising community health services: phase 1 codifying core community health services.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/standardising-community-health-services/
[Community health services cover a diverse range of health care delivery. This guidance aims to support improved commissioning and delivery of community health services. Codifying community health services will help to better assess demand and capacity. It will also help commissioners make investment choices as they design neighbourhood health provision that shifts care to community-based settings.]

Telecare National Action Plan: protecting telecare users throughout the digital phone switchover.
Department of Health and Social Care & Department for Science, Innovation and Technology; 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/telecare-national-action-plan-protecting-telecare-users-throughout-the-digital-phone-switchover
[The telecommunications industry is leading a programme of work to switch telephone networks from analogue to digital. The switchover will be complete for all providers by January 2027. This plan sets out the actions that stakeholders must take to safeguard telecare users during the digital phone switchover .]

Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis and Scoping Reviews

Effectiveness of Synchronous Postdischarge Contacts on Health Care Use and Patient Satisfaction : A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.
Boggan JC. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2025;:doi: 10.7326/ANNALS-24-01140.
[Postdischarge contacts within 7 days of discharge were not associated with reductions in 30-day ED use or readmissions compared with usual care. Health systems should reconsider the utility of universal PDCs because multifaceted interventions targeting higher-risk patients may be necessary to reduce use of acute care after discharge.]

Roles of physiotherapists in primary care teams: a scoping review . [Abstract]
Champoux M. *BMJ Open* 2025;15(2):e092276.
Check for full-text availability
[The review identified a wide variety of roles, primarily related to the treatment of musculoskeletal patients. In primary care settings, interprofessional collaboration can be hindered by a lack of knowledge regarding the roles of physiotherapists. Future studies should aim to develop effective strategies to ensure that all primary care team members have a comprehensive understanding of the roles of physiotherapists.]

The Social Prescribing Link Worker—Clarifying the Role to Harness Potential: A Scoping Review.
Mulholland J. *Health and Social Care in the Community* 2025;:4394123.
[Provides an outline of current knowledge about the role of the SPLW within social prescribing and maps what is commonly reported in community organisations throughout the UK. There remain clear barriers to the facilitation of social prescribing. The neglect of a clear role definition of the SPLW hampers the ability to strengthen the evidence base, which has led to reported inappropriate referrals into the social prescribing service and caused issues with generating referrals.]

Scoping review of social workers' professional roles in primary care. [Abstract]
Ashcroft R. *BMJ Open* 2024;14(12):e090527.
Check for full-text availability
[This scoping review contributes clarity about social work's capacity for enhancing the delivery of primary care. Social work's role in primary care facilitates comprehensive, continuous and patient-centred care that improves the experiences of both patients and teams. Social work clinicians, leaders and scholars are encouraged to seek out opportunities to participate in and undertake research identifying these contributions to primary care.]

Report

In the balance: lessons for changing the mix of professions in NHS services.
NHS Employers; 2025.
https://www.nhsemployers.org/publications/balance-lessons-changing-mix-professions-nhs-services
[This new report from the Nuffield Trust provides some lessons for how new and emerging roles could be better implemented and integrated into the NHS.]

The framework for integrated care: a catalyst for change.
Anna Freud; 2025.
https://brandplatform.annafreud.org/share/PUrWMcn556uUSQs3Nct2
[This resource aims to promote discussion about how the most impactful effective mental health support for

children and young people can be provided and sustained. The framework is a set of evidence-informed guiding principles and practices that could act as a catalyst for cultural and organisational change. It aims to provide a template for integration of services for children and young people in some of the most complex situations, who are at high risk of harm, and who may display high-risk behaviours.]

The future of Pharmacy First: maximising patient benefit.
Company Chemists Association; 2025.
https://thecca.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/The-Future-of-Pharmacy-First.pdf
[This report finds that in the first nine months since the service was launched, community pharmacies will have provided 2.5 million consultations by April 2025. The service has the potential to free up more than 9 million GP appointments every year. However, the report argues that over four times as many GP appointments – 40 million – could be freed up annually.]

The future of primary care.
NHS Confederation; 2025.
https://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/future-primary-care
[This report discusses how primary care at scale can evolve and innovate to support the government's ambition to shift care closer to home.]

The preventative shift: how can we embed prevention and achieve long term missions.
The Health Foundation; 2025.
https://www.health.org.uk/reports-and-analysis/briefings/the-preventative-shift-how-can-we-embed-prevention-and-achieve-long
[The new briefing The Preventative Shift looks at how to shift the culture of public bodies to think 'prevention first' and target spending at activities which are value for money and improve outcomes.]

Quality Improvement and Innovation

Guideline / Policy
Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pharmacy.
Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS); 2025.
https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/all-our-campaigns/policy-a-z/ai
[This policy document outlines how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to support pharmacy practice and improve patient care.]

AI deployment fundamentals for medical imaging.
Royal College of Radiologists (RCR); 2024.
https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-services/all-our-publications/clinical-radiology-publications/ai-deployment-fundamentals-for-medical-imaging/
[This guidance aims to provide minimum standards for providers to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) solutions in radiology.]

Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis and Scoping Reviews
AI for IMPACTS Framework for Evaluating the Long-Term Real-World Impacts of AI-Powered Clinician Tools: Systematic Review and Narrative Synthesis. [Abstract]
Jacob C. *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 2025;27:e67485.
Check for full-text availability
[This study aimed to create a framework for assessing AI in health care, extending beyond technical metrics to incorporate social and organizational dimensions. The framework was developed by systematically reviewing, analyzing, and synthesizing the evaluation criteria necessary for successful implementation, focusing on the long-term real-world impact of AI in clinical practice.]

Conceptualising Centres of Clinical Excellence: A Scoping Review. [Abstract]
Kandasamy T. *BMJ Open* 2024;14(12):e082704.
Check for full-text availability
[Centres of clinical excellence (CoCE) are healthcare facilities that provide excellent healthcare. However, despite their increasing prevalence, it is unclear how CoCE are identified and monitored. This paper explores how CoCE has been described in the literature. There are inconsistencies in how CoCE are established, identified, monitored and evaluated. Common (but not uniform) features of CoCE are highly skilled staff, high-quality care delivery and optimal patient outcomes.]

Evaluation of quality policies and strategies in health systems: a scoping review. [Abstract]
Pellense MCDS. *BMJ Open* 2025;15(2):e092654.
Check for full-text availability
[Improving the quality of care requires specific, comprehensive and continuous attention from the administration. However, information on evaluations of national and subnational policies and strategies for quality is lacking. This study aims to map studies evaluating policies and strategies for quality. Although the evidence provides an indication of how countries have implemented their quality policies and strategies, we identified the need for tools to assess their impact on health systems.

Mapping the landscape of digital health intervention strategies: 25-year synthesis. [Abstract]
Liu S. *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 2025;27:e59027.
Check for full-text availability
[This study followed a systematic review approach, complemented by close reading and text coding. Digital health interventions and strategies have undergone considerable development over the past 25 years. They have evolved from simple approaches to sophisticated, personalized techniques and are trending toward multifaceted interventions, leveraging advanced technologies for real-time monitoring and feedback.]

Palliative care: a narrative review of information barriers faced by paramedics.
Harding E. *Journal of Paramedic Practice* 2025;17(1):18-24.
[Electronic palliative care coordination systems (EPaCCS) can provide a solution to support paramedic staff. It is important to understand what needs to be in place to maximise benefits and avoid harms when providing end-of-life care (EoLC). The authors included five qualitative studies, addressing three themes: lack of access to patient information; proposed electronic solution; content of electronic system.]

Reducing outpatient wait times through telemedicine: a systematic review and quantitative analysis.
[Abstract]
Capodici A. *BMJ Open* 2025;15(1):e088153.
Check for full-text availability
[This systematic review aims to quantitatively examine the impact of telemedicine implementation on waiting times, defined as the time passed from the booking of a visit for an outpatient to the administration of the service. The implementation of telemedicine solutions may significantly improve waiting times, potentially leading to more efficient and equitable healthcare systems.]

Evidence-Based Summary

Measurement for Improvement
The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute; 2025.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/measurement-for-improvement/F765AFBA06D02F6AA52F060FBBCD20A4
[The main principles underpinning measurement for healthcare improvement are outlined in this Element. Although there is no single formula for achieving optimal measurement to support improvement, a fundamental principle is the importance of using multiple measures and approaches to gathering data. Improvement teams must tread carefully to avoid imposing undue burdens on patients, clinicians, or organisations.]

Report

Designing inclusive and trusted digital health services with people and communities.
The King's Fund; 2025.
https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/inclusive-digital-services-people-communities
[National and ICS leaders have a role to play in creating the conditions to allow staff designing digital services to embed user involvement in their work. This long-read summarises how this might be prioritized and improved. This is drawn from a literature review, along with interviews with those who are already working to engage service users in digital services design.]

AI Opportunities Action Plan: Independent report.
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology; 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-opportunities-action-plan/ai-opportunities-action-plan
[This plan, commissioned by Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, states that the goal for Britain should be a thriving domestic AI ecosystem, with serious players at multiple layers of the "AI stack" and widespread use of AI products and services across the economy.]

Assistive technology research and development work: 2023 to 2024.
Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assistive-technology-research-and-development-work-2023-to-2024
[Sets out government-funded projects supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of assistive technology.]

Public sector digital trends: beyond borders.
Society for Innovation, Technology and Modernisation; 2025.
https://socitm.net/resource-hub/collections/public-sector-digital-trends/
[This report outlines the digital and technology trends driving local public services change and innovation, and poses 10 questions every public service leader must address. Focusing on three deep-dive areas covering data, cybersecurity and reimagining services, the report exposes the interdependencies of digital initiatives and organisational goals. It emphasises the importance of clear vision and teamwork to achieve better social, economic and environmental outcomes.]

Tech to save time: how the NHS can realise the benefits.
The Health Foundation; 2025.
https://www.health.org.uk/reports-and-analysis/analysis/tech-to-save-time-how-the-nhs-can-realise-the-benefits
[With the NHS under unprecedented pressure, there is a strong focus on the potential for technology to support NHS staff and free up their time. However, the NHS often faces challenges in fully realising the benefits technology can offer.]

Toolkit

Quality Improvement Essentials Toolkit.
Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI); 2025.
https://www.ihi.org/resources/tools/quality-improvement-essentials-toolkit
[IHI's Quality Improvement Essentials Toolkit includes the tools and templates you need to launch a successful quality improvement project and manage performance improvement. Each of the ten quality improvement (QI) tools can be used with the Model for Improvement, Lean, or Six Sigma, and includes a short description, instructions, an example, and a blank template.]

Step-by-step guide to improving general practice website online journeys.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/step-by-step-guide-to-improving-general-practice-website-online-journeys/
[This guide is for those responsible for planning, leading and maintaining general practice website improvement work within practices, primary care networks (PCNs), GP federations, integrated care boards and other organisations. This guidance will help them with: understanding the elements of an improvement plan and the information they need to collect; benchmarking the usability of current online patient journeys; making a plan for improvement; and delivering and maintaining that improvement.]

Visual Management Board.
Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI); 2025.
https://www.ihi.org/resources/tools/visual-management-board
[A visual management board is used as a key communication tool that provides at-a-glance information about current process performance, both quantitative and qualitative data, to help clinical unit staff coordinate and guide their daily work and monitor ongoing improvement projects. This page includes visual management board examples, 5 tips for visual management boards, and how to implement a visual management board using PDSA cycles.]

Climate Change and Sustainability

Guideline / Policy

Green plan guidance.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/green-plan-guidance/
[This updated guidance is to help NHS organisations develop robust plans to support world-leading patient care, save money and minimise waste – continuing the NHS's journey to achieving net zero. Refreshed green plans should be approved by the organisation's board or governing body, published in an accessible location on the organisation's website, and shared with NHS England by 31 July 2025.]

Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis and Scoping Reviews

A Conceptual Framework for Sustainable Evidence-Based Design for Aligning Therapeutic and Sustainability Outcomes in Healthcare Facilities: A Systematic Literature Review .
Julia Read. *HERD* 2025;18(1):86-107 .
[The aim of this systematic review was to identify which aspects of evidence-based design (EBD) and sustainable design principles overlap based on evidence in the peer reviewed academic literature. Key areas of synergy include Indoor environmental quality and wellbeing and Energy and atmosphere. The development of the conceptual framework enables scholars and practitioners to identify design features that align both priorities and through future research, refine the framework.]

Advancing sustainability in healthcare: A scoping review of global recycling practices in operating rooms.
Emily Moya. *American Journal of Surgery* 2024;241:10.1016/j.amjsurg.2024.116178.
[The findings indicate that up to 74 % of OR waste, particularly preoperative waste, is recyclable. However, implementation of recycling programs is hindered by regulatory constraints, lack of education, leadership challenges, and logistical difficulties. Successful initiatives involve targeted recycling efforts, such as focusing on specific materials like blue wrap and polyethylene terephthalate plastics, supported by leadership engagement and standardized guidelines.]

Analyzing telehealth emissions and variations in primary care settings - A scoping review.
de Sain R. *Journal of Climate Change and Health* 2024;20:100340.
[In facing the dual challenge of climate change's health impacts and healthcare's greenhouse gas emissions, telehealth emerges as a promising, low-carbon alternative. While existing literature emphasizes its implications in secondary and acute care, a significant gap exists regarding its impact on primary care emissions. Findings underscore the potential for substantial emissions reduction by transitioning appropriate primary care consultations to virtual delivery platforms.]

Implementation of decarbonisation actions in general practice: a systematic review and narrative synthesis. [Abstract]
Nunes AR. *BMJ Open* 2025;15(2):e091404.
Check for full-text availability
[There is limited evidence on the implementation of decarbonisation actions in general practice. A range of factors may impact on the extent to which implementation occurs. Addressing these will be crucial for effectively promoting and scaling decarbonisation actions in general practice. Future research should focus on understanding the role of institutional context, evaluating the real-world impact of interventions on greenhouse gas emissions and exploring patient and community involvement.]

Reducing the Energy Consumption of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography Scanners: Integrating Ecodesign and Sustainable Operations.
Andrew M Hernandez. *Journal of Computer Assisted Tomography* 2024;:10.1097/RCT.0000000000001700.
[This review aims to provide valuable insights into how energy consumption in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scanners can be effectively monitored, managed, and reduced, thereby contributing to more sustainable medical imaging practices. Demand for advanced imaging technologies such as MRI and CT scanners continues to increase, and understanding the resultant impact on greenhouse gas emissions requires a thorough evaluation of their energy consumption.]

Report

Advancing and integrating climate and health policies in the United Kingdom: insights from national stakeholders.
University of East Anglia and Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment; 2025.
https://tyndall.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Advancing-Climate-Change-and-Health-Policies-in-the-UK-final.pdf
[The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research has released a new report on advancing and integrating climate and health policies in the UK. The report explores how climate action can support public health and highlights the need for cohesive policies that address both climate and health challenges.]

Climate change and health: embedding ethics into policy and decision-making.
Nuffield Council on Bioethics; 2025.
https://cdn.nuffieldbioethics.org/wp-content/uploads/Climate-change-and-health-embedding-ethics-into-policy-and-decision-making-FINAL.pdf
[This report explores the importance of integrating ethics into measures that address climate change. It aims to inform policy development and decision-making in the UK, highlighting the need to address the intersections between climate change and health.]

Public Health

Guideline / Policy

Recovery support services and lived experience initiatives.
Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovery-support-services-and-lived-experience-initiatives
[Guidance on supporting lived experience initiatives and recovery support services to help people start and sustain recovery from problem drug and alcohol use. Updated alcohol and drug treatment data for 2023 to 2024 in 2 places: 'Part 1: introducing recovery, peer support and lived experience initiatives'; and 'Part 2: recovery support services – evidence and current provision'.]

Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis and Scoping Reviews

A review of studies assessing the benefits of clean air and climate mitigation policies for child and adult health.
Perera F. *Journal of Climate Change and Health* 2025;21:100369.
[Every study reviewed here found evidence that clean air and climate policies aimed at reducing fossil fuel emissions reduce air pollution and prevent large numbers of deaths and illness in adults and children. Where assessed, the economic benefits are also substantial. The results will hopefully incentivize and inform future policies to address the escalating problems of climate change and air pollution.]

Association between socioeconomic disadvantage and severe maternal morbidity and mortality in high-income countries: a systematic review. [Abstract]
Geddes-Barton D. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* 2025;79(3):207-215.
Check for full-text availability
[Socioeconomic position (SEP) is among the most important determinants of variations in health outcomes. This systematic review aimed to summarise the association between socioeconomic disadvantage and the risk of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) and maternal mortality (MM) across high-income countries. Socioeconomic disadvantage is associated with increased risk for SMM and MM.]

Climate change and antibiotic resistance: A scoping review.
María Fernández Salgueiro. *Environmental Microbiology Reports* 2024;16(5):e70008 .
[The impact of climate change, particularly the increase in temperature across different environmental settings, on antibiotic resistance has been identified as the most studied component related to climate change in the reviewed scientific literature. Additionally, rising temperatures facilitate bacterial growth and horizontal gene transfer, but this does not establish a causal association between environmental temperature and antibiotic resistance.]

Climate change and allergic diseases: A scoping review.
Agache I. *Journal of Climate Change and Health* 2024;20:100350.
[There is an urgent need to reduce the use of fossil fuels to mitigate climate change and protect planetary and human health. While international accords such as the 2015 Paris Agreement have been signed with the aim of lowering greenhouse gases and limiting future global temperature increases, it is clear that increased efforts are needed, as are evidence-based solutions for adapting to the increased prevalence of allergic diseases and cost-benefit analysis of current mitigation strategies.]

Parents' Experiences of Accessing Support for Adversities that Impact Their Parenting: A Systematic Review of Qualitative Evidence.
Lines LE. *Health and Social Care in the Community* 2025;:5537011.
[Adverse social and economic circumstances in childhood have lifelong impacts. Early support is necessary to ensure children thrive and reach their full potential. Seeking help is difficult, and parents face many barriers. Parents seeking support encountered professionals who were disrespectful and unwilling to listen. Experiences included professionals who blamed parents for complex socioeconomic circumstances.Effective and sustainable change is needed for consistent and empathetic services.]

Social inclusion programming for older adults living in age-friendly cities: a scoping review. [Abstract]
Liougas MP. *BMJ Open* 2025;15(1):e088439.
Check for full-text availability
[We highlight that programmes addressing population, environment and sectoral inclusion may improve the well-being of older adults in urban settings. Our findings will inform AFC practices and policies by deepening our understanding of how social inclusion can be improved for older adults, including those from under-represented groups, ensuring an equitable approach to enhancing quality of life.]

Intersections between climate change and antimicrobial resistance: a systematic scoping review.
[Abstract]
van Bavel B. *The Lancet. Planetary Health* 2024;8(12):e1118-e1128.
Check for full-text availability
[Climate change and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) present crucial challenges for the health and wellbeing of people, animals, plants, and ecosystems worldwide, yet the two are largely treated as separate and unrelated challenges. The aim of this systematic scoping Review is to understand the nature of the growing evidence base linking AMR and climate change and to identify knowledge gaps and areas for further research.]

Understanding the Relationships Between Physical Activity and Climate Change: An Umbrella Review.
Milena Franco Silva. *Journal of Physical Activity & Health* 2024;21(12):1263-1275 .
[Findings reveal an interplay between climate change and physical activity. While rising temperatures may prompt outdoor activities up to a certain temperature threshold, air pollution and extreme heat can have harmful effects. Active transportation and improved logistics around large-scale sporting events can mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but transportation systems linked to sports venues may increase emissions.]

Report

A place for health: building health and wellbeing in the places we spend time.
Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH); 2025.
https://www.rsph.org.uk/static/50634359-107f-4bae-979b2f1da7bdcfa1/A-place-for-health-report-Jan-2025-final.pdf
[For many people, the places they inhabit can actively make them unhealthier. The end result is that health has very little to do with conscious decisions, but is instead a reflection of the environments in which people spend their time. In this report, the RSPH calls for a step change in how we consider health – embedding it across every area of society, rather than leaving it as an issue solely to be considered by medical professionals in the NHS.]

Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) report.
Centre for Climate and Health Security; 2024.
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-effects-of-climate-change-hecc-report
[An analysis of how climate change makes extreme weather events in the UK, including more intense and frequent heatwaves, flooding and drought. Each chapter details the health impact of a different hazard on the population. The report also details how the direct impacts of climate change can lead to further, indirect impacts such as malnutrition, mental health impacts and infectious disease spread.]

Building health equity: the role of the property sector in improving health.
Institute of Health Equity; 2025.
https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/building-health-equity-the-role-of-the-property-sector-in-improving-health/main-report
[This review explains how the twin crises of health and housing can be tackled together, by promoting health equity. It lays out a way forward to enable the property sector and national and local governments to work in partnership and put health equity, wellbeing and environmental sustainability at the heart of how the UK builds homes and shapes neighbourhoods.]

Cancer in the UK 2025: socioeconomic deprivation.
Cancer Research UK (CRUK); 2025.
https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/cancer_in_the_uk_2025_socioeconomic_deprivation.pdf
[This report shows that cancer death rates are nearly 60% higher for people living in the most deprived areas of the UK compared with the least deprived, with around 28,400 cancer deaths each year linked to socioeconomic inequality. This equates to around 78 deaths each day – more than 3 in 20 of all deaths from cancer. The report summarises key metrics and data in relation to socioeconomic deprivation from across the cancer pathway, including prevention, diagnosis and treatment.]

Mind the age gap: making mental health matter across the life course.
International Longevity Centre – UK (ILC-UK); 2025.
https://ilcuk.org.uk/stigma-and-stiff-upper-lips-are-preventing-too-many-people-from-seeking-support-for-serious-mental-health-conditions/
[This report finds that serious mental health conditions are hampering people's ability to live more fulfilling long lives. Already, 1 in 8 people around the world currently suffer from a mental health condition, and this report estimates that the average person spends over a week (7.2 days) with a mental health-related disability every year. The report makes a series of recommendations for governments and health leaders to support the mental health of people throughout their longer lives.]

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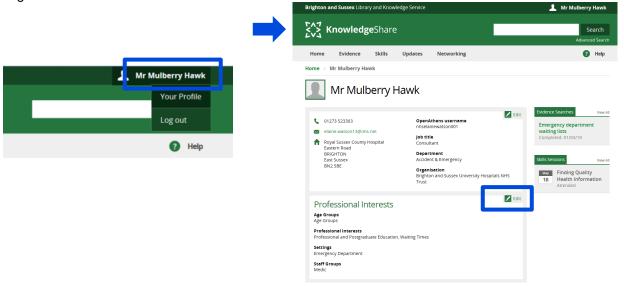
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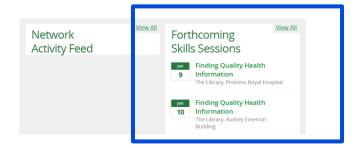
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