



## Ebulletin 159 – November 2020

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**We would like to ensure that all names and email addresses are correct ahead of an exciting upgrade to our membership system. Please could you check your contact details are correct at the top of this email and let us know if anything is wrong. (Practice email is used to send an email only if we have lost touch with all other contacts.)**

### **1. Covid 19: a fork in the road for general practice We must choose a personal not an impersonal future.**

An article written by Sir Denis Pereira Gray, professor emeritus, University of Exeter, George Freeman, emeritus professor of general practice, Catherine Johns, interim chair of the patient participation group, and Martin Roland, emeritus professor of health services research.

Published in the British Medical Journal on 28 Sept 2020.

This link requires member login on our website. <https://napp.org.uk/membersonly/covid19.html#fork>

### **2. Doctor, who? Shaping a Vision for 2040**

A report from The Changing Face of Medicine Commission under the auspices of The Academy of Medical Royal College.

This link requires member login on our website. <https://napp.org.uk/membersonly/covid19.html#doctorwho>

For members' interest, this was a project started by Pali Hungin (then then president of the BMA). There were 5 work streams and our own president, Dr Patricia Wilkie was asked to take the lead on the Dr Patient work stream, later joined by a psychiatrist from the BMA. The whole document contains the final reports from the 5 work streams. Several N.A.P.P. board members including Sandy Gower, Olivia King, Paul Devlin and Gemma Jackson (The Thornton Practice PPG) were involved in a half day workshop. Dr Wilkie's time commitment to the project was quite considerable with London meetings, telephone calls and liaising with the leaders of the other work streams to ensure that they included the patient perspective.

### **3. Continuing Healthcare - Getting it right first time**

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman will publish an insight report on complaints we have received about NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) on Wednesday 4 November. It has this morning been laid in Parliament and issued to press under 24-hour embargo. Please find the article here. (This link requires member login on our website). <https://napp.org.uk/membersonly/articles.html#continuity>

## 4. Virtual PPG Meetings - is your practice engaging?

Thank you for all your feedback on this topic. We have had many responses which was heartening, and will publish a summary of this shortly.

## 5. National news roundup

Some of the items below will already be subject to further development and change. We have included the date and time of these that these items were published (since our last eBulletin) for your interest, and sorted into topics. We encourage you to keep yourselves up to date as well, by visiting the government website at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### Digital communication

09:58am, 2 November 2020

[Funding agreed for video consultations in secondary care](#)

£10 million will be available to NHS providers and systems to support video consultation software provision in secondary care for 2021/22.

11:17am, 29 October 2020

[Video Group Clinic Briefing Session](#)

Video Group Clinics (VGCs) are a new remote consultation model that enables clinicians to build community and connections with and between patients; especially those living with long term conditions.

### Health Promotion

09:51am, 2 November 2020

[Understanding the male menopause and mental health](#)

This guide on the "male menopause" - separates facts from fiction, and why it can be misleading (and harmful) to group the different changes and conditions affecting men as they age under this label.

09:37am, 28 October 2020

[Elderly are not seeking help for potential cancer symptoms](#)

53% of GPs say they are concerned that fewer older adults are contacting them with symptoms compared to before the pandemic, according to new findings from Cancer Research UK.

10:24am, 26 October 2020

[Resources to support with musculoskeletal health following #BoneJointWeek \(12 - 20 Oct\)](#)

The Covid-19 pandemic changed the roadmap for achieving good musculoskeletal health. A blog by Sue Brown, CEO for the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance, considers what can be done to support patients' musculoskeletal health during the pandemic.

10:38am, 22 October 2020

[Planning for Self Care Week](#)

This year's Self Care Week – running from Monday 16 to Sunday 22 November – is an opportunity to remind people how the NHS can help them look after themselves and loved ones and manage their health and wellbeing during the pandemic.

11:12am, 20 October 2020

[Stories of shielding: life in the pandemic](#)

When lockdown began, Local Voices created a digital platform – Our Covid Voices – for people with health and care needs to share their experiences of the impact of the pandemic.

11:08am, 12 October 2020

[Get cancer symptoms checked and attend routine appointments](#)

Famous faces, including TV chefs Gordon Ramsay, Nadiya Hussein, and actress Emma Thompson are backing a major new campaign urging anyone concerned about cancer to get checked and to keep routine appointments, as new research found that even now, nearly half (48 per cent) of the public would delay or not seek medical help at all.

10:49am, 12 October 2020

['Help Us, Help You' campaign](#)

NHS England's 'Help Us, Help You' campaign seeks to address the barriers that can deter patients from accessing the NHS and help the public understand how they safely access the best services for them.

## Healthcare Services and Commissioning

10:13am, 30 October 2020

[Appointments in general practice data](#)

The appointments in general practice data for September 2020 has been published by NHS Digital, showing a 20% increase in appointments compared to August.

11:12am, 29 October 2020

[Updated standard operating procedure - community pharmacy](#)

There has been a sustained increase in community transmission of COVID-19 in England, although there remains significant variation across localities.

09:39am, 28 October 2020

[Hospital discharge must be improved](#)

Research published by Healthwatch and the British Red Cross shows significant numbers of people are not receiving follow-up support after being discharged from hospital under new policy, leading to unmet needs.

10:22am, 26 October 2020

[New blueprint for better hospital food](#)

Millions of NHS patients and staff will benefit from tastier, healthier and better-quality meals following an independent review of hospital food, led by a panel of advisers including chef and restaurateur Prue Leith.

10:21am, 26 October 2020

[GP premises survey: post Covid-19](#)

With the emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting many patients' access to GP services, this survey investigated what patients felt about their GP's premises, and whether they would be confident to return to them.

10:43am, 23 October 2020

[Over 13,700 more nurses working in the NHS](#)

The number of nurses in the NHS in England increased by 13,718 compared with last year, and the number of doctors has risen by 7,810, figures to the end of July show.

10:33am, 14 October 2020

[Clinically extremely vulnerable receive updated advice](#)

Clinically extremely vulnerable people in England will receive new guidance to help them reduce their risk from coronavirus, tailored to where they live.

12:22pm, 5 October 2020

[Holistic medication reviews for thousands of patients as new guidance rolls out](#)

Primary care networks (PCNs) are to offer thousands of patients a holistic review of their medication, to help them stay healthy and remain independent.

10:21am, 2 October 2020

[Changes to the GP Contract](#)

NHS England has sent a letter to practices advising them of changes to the GP contract from 1 October 2020 to implement the agreements reached with the BMA in 2020/21.

## Mental Health

11:06am, 29 October 2020

[Children and young people's mental health review](#)

This report contains an update on work carried out in 2018 looking at the quality of mental health services for children and young people, as well as the access to these services.

09:50am, 27 October 2020

[Survey indicates one in six children have a probable mental disorder](#)

The proportion of children experiencing a probable mental disorder has increased over the past three years, from one in nine in 2017 to one in six in July this year according to the Mental Health of Children and Young People in England 2020 report.

09:43am, 27 October 2020

[The impact of Covid-19 to date on older people's mental and physical health](#)

This research finds that some older people are coping with the pandemic, but a sizeable minority are finding life incredibly tough.

11:23am, 13 October 2020

[Place2Be launches programme for keyworker parents, carers and children](#)

A free programme is available from Place2Be designed to support the mental health and relationship-building of keyworkers and their children.

11:21am, 13 October 2020

[Supporting students through a global pandemic and beyond](#)

This report finds that many student midwives are struggling under the weight of financial concerns, poor mental health and an unpredictable job market.

## **NICE Guidance**

10:52am, 6 October 2020

[Rapid Covid-19 guideline will address Long Covid](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) has announced they will work with the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) to develop a guideline on persistent effects of Covid-19 (Long Covid) on patients.

## **Prescribing**

09:57am, 2 November 2020

[Temporary approval to suspend the need for signatures on prescriptions, dental and ophthalmic forms](#)

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has approved a temporary measure in England to help limit the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) by suspending the need for patients to sign prescription, dental and ophthalmic forms for a period of 5 months to 31 March 2021.

10:17am, 30 October 2020

[Access to new medicines in the English NHS](#)

Have you ever wondered how new medicines are developed, approved and priced?

## **Research**

10:19am, 30 October 2020

[CVDPREVENT: A national primary care audit](#)

CVDprevent is a national primary care audit to support professionally led quality improvement in the diagnosis and management of six high risk conditions that cause stroke, heart attack and dementia: atrial fibrillation (AF), high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, non-diabetic hyperglycaemia and chronic kidney disease.

12:08pm, 29 October 2020

[Elective care – what happens now](#)

Covid-19 has ruthlessly exposed flaws in our society, from social care funding to democracy itself. Trust is fundamental to a functioning society and it is eroding in many areas. One of these areas is elective care.

11:08am, 29 October 2020

[Social care: funding and workforce](#)

This report calls for a £7 billion annual increase in social care funding as a starting point for reform.

10:18am, 26 October 2020

[The impact of Covid-19 on people living with kidney disease](#)

This report (compiled using 860 responses from an online survey open from 28 August to 21 September 2020) finds that the majority of kidney patients have been expected to return to work once shielding ended and the furlough scheme ends.

09:34am, 15 October 2020

[Pushed from pillar to post: improving the availability and quality of support after self-harm in England](#)

This report by the Samaritans finds that there is no consistently effective support available to people who self-harm.

10:38am, 14 October 2020

[Reducing health inequalities for people living with frailty](#)

The Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Health and Wellbeing Alliance have launched a new resource which sets out practical recommendations and examples of how commissioners, service providers and health, care and support staff can successfully overcome barriers to healthcare for people at greater risk of frailty as a result of health inequalities.

10:01am, 7 October 2020

[Shared decision making is key to good patient care](#)

Effective decision making based on conversations between doctors and patients is fundamental to good care, according to guidance published by the General Medical Council (GMC).

### **Vaccination & Testing**

09:54am, 2 November 2020

[UK flu vaccination supply protected](#)

The government has announced restrictions on the export of supplies of flu vaccines to protect supplies for UK patients, following a global spike in demand.

10:21am, 30 October 2020

[Childhood Influenza Enhanced Service 2020/21](#)

The flu letter issued on 5 August indicated that an inactivated vaccine may also be offered to those children whose parents refuse the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) due to the porcine gelatine content.

09:43am, 28 October 2020

[Largest COVID-19 antibody testing programme publishes findings](#)

Findings from Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI show the number of people with antibodies fell by 26.5% over 3 months.

10:25am, 26 October 2020

[Funding available for flu programme](#)

NHS England has made an additional £15.4m available to local systems and primary care providers to cover reasonable additional costs (over and above the usual fee structures) associated with this year's extended flu programme.

10:39am, 22 October 2020

[Guidance explains different types of tests and testing kits](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has published information for the public, patients, professionals and industry about COVID-19 tests and testing kits, including how they work, the different types of tests and the specifications manufacturers need to follow.

12:20pm, 5 October 2020

[Joint statement on delivery of flu vaccination programme](#)

The Royal College of General Practitioner and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has issued a joined statement emphasising how important professional collaboration locally between GPs and community pharmacy is to deliver the flu vaccination programme in the most effective way for patients.