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| **February 2023 – General Articles** |
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|  | **Department of Health & Social Care - Delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services**To support recovery, this plan sets out a number of ambitions, including: patients being seen more quickly in emergency departments, with the ambition to improve to 76 per cent of patients being admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours by March 2024, with further improvement in 2024/25; and ambulances getting to patients more quickly: with improved ambulance response times for Category 2 incidents to 30 minutes on average over 2023/24, with further improvement in 2024/25 towards pre-pandemic levels. |
| <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/B2034-delivery-plan-for-recovering-urgent-and-emergency-care-services.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13751917_NEWSL_HMP%202023-01-31&dm_i=21A8,86R1P,2NYYES,XKSDS,1>  |
|  | **Does it matter that people are opting out of the NHS into private treatment?**Debates about privatisation in the NHS have been around for decades – is it good or bad, is it happening now, will it happen in the future? Over time the content of the debate shifts and changes, even if the word privatisation stays the same.  |
| <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2023/01/does-it-matter-people-are-opting-out-nhs-private-treatment?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13758976_NEWSL_HMP%202023-02-03&dm_i=21A8,86WHS,2NYYES,XKY0G,1>  |
|  | **LGBTQ+ staff and patients deserve better from the NHS**What does recent data reveal about the experience of LGBTQ+ staff and patients? How can the NHS take steps towards becoming more inclusive? Kelly Ameneshoa explores.  |
| <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2023/02/lgbtq-staff-patients-deserve-better-nhs?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13783030_NEWSL_Weekly%20Update%2017-02-23&utm_content=Button_LGBTQBlog&dm_i=21A8%2C87F1Y%2CFLXC4C%2CXNJR7%2C1>  |
|  | **Basis of negotiation: recommendations to improve the NHS pay review process**With the NHS pay review process recently coming in for criticism, this long read presents an 11-point plan to help make it more fit for purpose. It sets out practical recommendations – for the UK governments, pay review bodies and unions – to improve the current pay review arrangements.<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/basis-of-negotiation-recommendations-to-improve-the-nhs-pay-review-process?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13751917_NEWSL_HMP%202023-01-31&dm_i=21A8,86R1P,2NYYES,XKQKU,1>  |
|  | **Resolution Foundation -** Who cares? The experience of social care workers, and the enforcement of employment rights in the sectorThis report finds that social care workers have higher levels of job satisfaction and stronger job attachment than those in other low-paying sectors, but many have to contend with unsafe working conditions and unlawful underpayment of the minimum wage. This report combines new statistical analysis with findings from a series of focus groups with frontline social care workers, to shine a light on the nature of the jobs they do, the challenges they face, and the priorities for improvement. |
| <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2023/01/Who-cares.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13751917_NEWSL_HMP%202023-01-31&dm_i=21A8,86R1P,2NYYES,XKR9B,1> |
|  | **Archbishops’ commission on ‘re-imagining care’**The report of the Archbishops’ commission on ‘re-imagining care’ was published on 24 January.It sets out three actions to realise a new vision for care and support:The commission was set up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in April 2021. * rethinking attitudes to care and support
* rebalancing roles and responsibilities
* redesigning the social care system
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| Key elements proposed by the commission are:* investment in communities
* stronger role for the state
* new deal for unpaid carers
* commitment to responsibilities as actively engaged citizens.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Care%20and%20Support%20Reimagined%20A%20National%20Care%20Covenant%20for%20England%20%28Full%29.pdf> |

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| **COVID-19 guidance and updates**  |
| 2 February | Government Official Statistics new publicationAdult social care in England, monthly statistics: February 2023Experimental statistics on a range of topics including infection control measures, coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccinations and testing for COVID-19 in adult social care settings. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/adult-social-care-in-england-monthly-statistics-february-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=108e1f03-95fe-456e-b2fc-fcffe46c9d9a&utm_content=daily>  |
| 2 February | Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatroy Agency guidance new publication **Responding to emerging COVID-19 variants of concern**A set of principles for understanding the impact of new variants on antiviral drugs and monoclonal antibodies | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responding-to-emerging-covid-19-variants-of-concern?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=385dd18f-da22-4dd6-b486-26c6926a0917&utm_content=daily>  |
| 17 February | Government Press release**Thousands give their views on how COVID-19 Pandemic should be remembered in the UK**The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration is now considering all responses and final recommendations will be put to Government in Spring. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-give-their-views-on-how-covid-19-pandemic-should-be-remembered-in-the-uk?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c35a1e05-917b-45c1-ab66-251cc35a413d&utm_content=daily>  |
| 21 February  | Government News story**Second bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine from Moderna (Spikevax) authorised by UK medicines regulator**This adapted COVID-19 vaccine targets both the original coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and the Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/second-bivalent-covid-19-booster-vaccine-from-moderna-spikevax-authorised-by-uk-medicines-regulator?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=801b97bb-7bce-4151-8490-e98b98fa56f8&utm_content=daily>  |
| 22 February | Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatroy Agency Decision**Regulatory approval of COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen**Updates made to the SmPC and PIL to reflect the COVID-19 Janssen vaccine being converted to a full marketing authorisation as of 20 February 2023.  | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-janssen?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=ecff6dfb-ca28-4682-9de1-53bf5a24bd2a&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 23 February | Government Official Statistics – new publication**New-onset, self-reported long COVID after coronavirus (COVID-19) reinfection in the UK**The likelihood of new-onset, self-reported long COVID after reinfection with coronavirus (COVID-19) compared with a first COVID-19 infection, using data from the COVID-19 Infection Survey. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/new-onset-self-reported-long-covid-after-coronavirus-covid-19-reinfection-in-the-uk?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c0018089-b212-4104-bd83-7691ac8a71cd&utm_content=daily>  |

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| **COVID-19 guidance and updates continued**  |
| 23 February  | Government Official Statistics**Seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccine uptake in frontline healthcare workers: monthly data 2022 to 2023**Data showing the number and proportion of frontline healthcare workers (HCWs) in England having seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-influenza-and-covid-19-vaccine-uptake-in-frontline-healthcare-workers-monthly-data-2022-to-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=a7d2d41d-bfe7-438e-902a-03c5ec2f0697&utm_content=daily>  |
| 23 February | Government Official Statistics**Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in children of school age: monthly data, 2022 to 2023**Cumulative vaccine uptake data for the childhood seasonal influenza programme in England. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-influenza-vaccine-uptake-in-children-of-school-age-monthly-data-2022-to-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=e81f5e08-6642-4883-822f-b1fedd3e2bf1&utm_content=daily>  |
| 23 February | Government News story**National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports published**Weekly national influenza and coronavirus (COVID-19) report, COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-published?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=2167b785-e4d9-4eea-8a1a-b46a8520980c&utm_content=daily>  |
| 24 February | Government Official Statistics**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK: 24 February 2023**Percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in private residential households in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, including regional and age breakdowns. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-covid-19-infection-survey-uk-24-february-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=2a69ffa7-5244-41d9-95e2-07ee607a8806&utm_content=daily>  |
| 24 February | Government guidance**Coronavirus (COVID-19) PCR home test kit instructions**Find out how to do an NHS PCR test for COVID-19 at home and check if you need to register a test kit.Updated video for how to test a child for COVID-19. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-for-coronavirus-at-home?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=7037b923-b1f1-4bb7-ade7-d3ad38a6f333&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |
| 14 February | Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) Open consultation**Minimum service levels in event of strike action: ambulance services in England, Scotland and Wales**The DHSC is seeking views during passage of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill on, subject to parliamentary approval, introducing regulations on minimum service levels in England, Scotland and Wales to support minimum service levels in the health service during strike action to protect patient safety. The consultation closes at 11.45am on 9 May 2023. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/minimum-service-levels-in-event-of-strike-action-ambulance-services?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13783080_NEWSL_HMP%202023-02-17&dm_i=21A8,87F3C,2NYYES,XNLTA,1>  |
| 17 February | Government guidance **Domestic abuse: how to get help**Find out how to get help if you or someone you know is a victim of domestic abuse. Updates made to 'Ask for ANI codeword' and 'Safe Spaces' sections. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=af185584-08fc-4c72-9bc5-746f31642479&utm_content=daily>  |
| 23 February | Government guidance**Claim Child Benefit for one or more children**How to make a claim for Child Benefit.All applicants can now use the online form to make a claim. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-child-benefit-for-one-or-more-children?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=84523da0-eef1-4d50-a68d-010f4cb89f57&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 27 February | Government guidance**What is forced marriage?**A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage, and pressure or abuse is used to force them into marriage. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-is-a-forced-marriage?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=072eb0ea-0454-460f-a21d-20399078c31e&utm_content=daily>  |
| 27 February | Southampton County Council**Getting help with the cost of living.**Find information and links to help if you are being deeply affected by the rising cost of living. | <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/life-events/getting-help-with-the-cost-of-living/?utm_ID=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery> |
| 28 February | Ofqual Regulation**The Institute of British Sign Language surrender notice**The Institute of British Sign Language (iBSL) is no longer an Ofqual-recognised awarding organisation | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-institute-of-british-sign-language-surrender-notice?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=0a2e7083-53a7-4a6e-bc84-fe07ef90076a&utm_content=daily>  |
| 28 February | Government guidance – new publication**February 2023 – update on government’s work to improve the quality of social housing** The government has a programme of reform to improve the quality of social housing. Every month, progress on our commitments will be shared on these pages, as part of our commitment to respond to the tragic death of 2 year old Awaab Ishak. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/february-2023-update-on-governments-work-to-improve-the-quality-of-social-housing?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=51f932ac-45de-4062-bfb2-734aff2ef611&utm_content=daily>  |