|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **April 2023 – General Articles** | |
|  | |
|  | **UK Health Security Agency – Enjoy the outdoors but be ‘tick aware’**  **Tick bite risks and prevention of Lyme disease**  Ticks can transmit microbes that cause infections such as Lyme disease or tick borne encephalitis. Being tick aware by using the following information can help to reduce the chance of tick bites and of being infected  <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1148614/Tick-awareness-poster-April-2023.pdf> |
|  | **The hidden problems behind delayed discharges and their costs**  With additional funding available to the NHS and social care this winter to address issues around people experiencing delayed discharge, David Maguire, Senior Analyst at The King's Fund, explores the costs of these delays. |
| <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2023/03/hidden-problems-behind-delayed-discharges?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13857074_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202023-04-04&dm_i=21A8,8906Q,2NYYES,XVMBY,1> | |
|  | **Pharmacist prescribing – professional revolution or damp squib?**  In this King's Fund blog, Dr Keith Ridge, former Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England, considers what benefits the move to allow pharmacists to automatically become independent prescribers could bring and how the health care system unlocks them. <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2023/04/pharmacist-prescribing-professional-revolution-or-damp-squib?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13863886_NEWSL_HMP_Library_2022_04_11&dm_i=21A8,895FY,2NYYES,XWE4D,1> |
|  | **Department of Health and Social Care - The Hewitt Review: an independent review of integrated care systems**  This review set out to consider the oversight and governance of integrated care systems (ICSs). Each ICS has an integrated care board (ICB), a statutory organisation responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population, managing the NHS budget and arranging for the provision of health services in the ICS area. |
| ICBs include representatives from local authorities, primary care and NHS trusts & foundation trusts. The review covered ICSs in England & the NHS targets & priorities for which ICBs are accountable, including those set out in the government’s mandate to NHS England. The government is now considering the recommendations made by the review. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1148568/the-hewitt-review.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13857074_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202023-04-04&dm_i=21A8,8906Q,2NYYES,XVUQJ,1> | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **April 2023 – General Articles** | |
|  | **Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2022: Results from the British Social Attitudes survey**  The National Centre for Social Research’s (NatCen’s) British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey has been conducted annually since 1983. Each year the survey asks people what it's like to live in Britain and what they think about how Britain is run, including measuring levels of public satisfaction with the health and care services. |
| The most recent survey was carried out between 7 September and 30 October 2022 and asked a nationally representative sample (across England, Scotland and Wales) of 3,362 people about their satisfaction with the National Health Service (NHS) and social care services overall, and 1,187 people about their satisfaction with specific NHS services, as well as their views on NHS funding.  <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/public-satisfaction-nhs-and-social-care-2022?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13854645_NEWSL_Weekly%20update_300323&utm_content=Title_BSA&dm_i=21A8,88YB9,2NYYES,XVCDL,1> | |
| |  | | --- | | **Department of Health and Social Care** [Next steps to put people at the heart of care: a plan for adult social care system reform 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025](https://kingsfundmail.org.uk/21A8-895FY-2NYYES-540TKT-1/c.aspx) |  |  | | --- | | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-system-reform-next-steps-to-put-people-at-the-heart-of-care> | | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COVID-19 guidance and updates** | | |
| 31 March | Government guidance  **Managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection or a positive COVID-19 test result**  **What has changed**  The likelihood of being admitted to hospital directly due to coronavirus (COVID-19) is greatly reduced in the general population, with testing in healthcare settings mainly targeted at informing clinical care.  The main changes to this guidance are:   * most healthcare staff who have symptoms of a respiratory infection are no longer asked to test for COVID-19 * healthcare staff who test positive for COVID-19 are no longer required to have 2 negative lateral flow device (LFD) tests for COVID-19 before they return to work * healthcare staff whose job primarily involves providing direct care to inpatients who are severely immunosuppressed, such as those working in inpatient areas for solid organ, stem cell or bone marrow transplant or haemato-oncology patients, should take an LFD test if they develop symptoms of a respiratory infection, in line with locally decided protocols * healthcare staff whose job primarily involves providing direct care to inpatients who are severely immunosuppressed and who have a positive COVID-19 test should return to work in line with locally decided protocols | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-managing-healthcare-staff-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection/managing-healthcare-staff-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-or-a-positive-covid-19-test-result> |
| 4 April | Government guidance  **National protocol for COVID-19 vaccine (adults)**  Protocol for the administration of COVID-19 vaccine to individuals aged 18 years and over in accordance with the national COVID-19 vaccination programme. Updated guidance. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-covid-19-vaccine-adults?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c290ac97-5c94-4cef-8806-11826e6b618e&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 4 April | Government News story  **The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration**  The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration completes its work. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-uk-commission-on-covid-commemoration?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4f129ac7-caed-4cbf-be44-1af1a4641229&utm_content=daily> |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **COVID-19 guidance and updates continued** | | |
| 4 April | Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency Decision  **Regulatory approval of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca**  Information for healthcare professionals and the public about COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. Summary of Product Characteristics & Patient Information Leaflet updated to reflect:  - Update to sections 4.2,4.4, 4.8 and 5.1 regarding homologous booster  - Update to section 4.8 paraesthesia, hypoesthesia and cutaneous vasculitis  - Update to section 6.3 to extend self-life to 9 months | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=dd61f0c3-a552-456c-8b6a-7d71bc395d9c&utm_content=daily> |
| 4 April | Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency Guidance  **Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement**  Sets out how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in adult social care settings in England. Removed notice about changes coming into effect from 'COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care' | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-prevention-and-control-in-adult-social-care-covid-19-supplement?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4a8f380a-a262-4ee2-a78c-dd5c5a6fc6da&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 6 April | Government Press release  **Children aged 6 months to 4 years in clinical risk groups to be offered COVID-19 vaccine, says JCVI**  Committee recommends COVID-19 vaccine for children with underlying medical conditions. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/children-aged-6-months-to-4-years-in-clinical-risk-groups-to-be-offered-covid-19-vaccine-says-jcvi?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=6311b6cd-ef95-4f9a-8e34-a2a2b044c051&utm_content=daily> |
| 12 April | UK Health Security Research and analysis – new publication  **COVID-19 Omicron variant: infectious period and asymptomatic and symptomatic transmission**  Summarises evidence about the infectious period of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, and different transmission rates of people with asymptomatic or symptomatic infection. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-omicron-variant-infectious-period-and-asymptomatic-and-symptomatic-transmission?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=d79d76e7-3f08-43ef-b15b-78ce26d1d359&utm_content=daily> |
| 26 April | Government Guidance  **COVID-19 vaccination: spring 2023 booster resources**  Information on the spring 2023 booster dose for eligible individuals.  Added links to accessible versions. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-spring-booster-resources> |
| 27 April | 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=4cec60f9-4068-4bb8-a685-8c6560aa3a2a&utm_content=daily> |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Other Topics - updates** | | |
| 3 April | Government Guidance  **Personal Independence Payment (PIP) handbook**  Detailed guidance about PIP – the benefit for people with a health condition or disability. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-fact-sheets/pip-handbook> |
| 3 April | Government guidance  **Universal Credit if you have a disability or health condition**  Updated the special rules for end of life content to reflect the change in legislation from 6 months to 12 months for Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-if-you-have-a-disability-or-health-condition-quick-guide?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1652115b-8953-4634-9e70-552d454a77bc&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 4 April | Government blog  **Next steps for social care reform and the voice of adult social work** | <https://socialworkwithadults.blog.gov.uk/2023/04/04/next-steps-for-social-care-reform-and-the-voice-of-adult-social-work/> |
| 4 April | Government guidance  **Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024**  Guidance on getting extra payments to help with the cost of living if you’re entitled to certain benefits or tax credits.  The £301 Cost of Living Payment for people on tax credits and no other low income benefits will be paid between 2 and 9 May 2023 for most people. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payments-2023-to-2024?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=cf2ebffb-0ca2-4d2a-80fa-c062685afa49&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 4 April | UK Health Security Agency new publication guidance  **Pandemic flu vaccine and narcolepsy**  Information on narcolepsy and the pandemic flu vaccine. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pandemic-flu-vaccine-and-narcolepsy?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=8ebc48f4-8d8a-402a-bcbf-1958fcb33013&utm_content=daily> |
| 4 April | Government new publication guidance  **State Pension age Review 2023: a GAD technical bulletin**  This bulletin summarises the findings and recommendations of three reports published by the government on 30 March 2023 on the State Pension age review. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-pension-age-review-2023-a-gad-technical-bulletin?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=b63bec21-58d7-40e5-be16-f9762f3bc963&utm_content=daily> |
| 5 April | Government new publication guidance  **Apply to join a Regional Stakeholder Network for disabled people**  An application form for people to join their local Regional Stakeholder Network group. The Network helps to ensure disabled people's voices are heard throughout England. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-to-join-a-regional-stakeholder-network-for-disabled-people?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=de1c61ff-9040-4c3f-90f6-15a77ddf977c&utm_content=daily> |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Other Topics - updates** | | |
| 10 April | Government Guidance  **Access to Work: factsheet for customers**  Factsheet about Access to Work and how it can help overcome barriers to starting or keeping a job if you have a disability or long term health condition. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/access-to-work-factsheet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=b7812255-bd53-4766-a921-dac88991a3e6&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 10 April | Government guidance  **Your new State Pension explained**  Updated with the latest benefit rates, effective from 10 April 2023.  Government guidance  **Pension Credit: technical guidance**  Updated with the latest benefit rates, effective from 11 April 2023. Government guidance  **Pension Credit toolkit**  Replaced English and Welsh leaflet with the April 2023 version that has the latest Pension Credit amounts. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-new-state-pension-explained?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=d805eba4-a46b-457f-ad67-e458a676c5d0&utm_content=daily>  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pension-credit-technical-guidance?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=aef94df1-b48a-474a-b8e3-73650d3ecf5b&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pension-credit-toolkit?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=34558a59-7905-4c1f-9152-6c2a0082fb53&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 11 April | Government guidance  **Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024**  In the section about the Pensioner Cost of Living Payment, corrected the eligibility date for the Winter Fuel Payment. You can get a Winter Fuel Payment for winter 2023 to 2024 if you were born before 25 September 1957, not 24 September as the guidance previously said. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment#full-publication-update-history> |
| 13 April | Government Guidance  **Easy read: Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children**  These easy read guides explain what Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children is, how you can apply for it and what happens when a child turns 16. | <https://www.gov.uk/disability-living-allowance-children> |
| 16 April | Government guidance  **The Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla**  How to watch the Coronation, ceremonial processions and Coronation Concert | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-coronation-of-their-majesties-king-charles-iii-and-queen-camilla?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=e11d675f-b648-434e-8123-fc8cb42296ef&utm_content=daily> |
| **Other Topics - updates** | | |
| 17 April | Government guidance  **Cost of Living Payments 2023 to 2024**  Guidance on getting extra payments to help with the cost of living if you’re entitled to certain benefits or tax credits. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1fa55b74-05d7-428f-a022-0fd5b6fc41df&utm_content=daily> |
| 18 April | Government guidance  **Rates and allowances: National Insurance contributions**  Rates, allowances and limits for National Insurance.  The column heading '2023 to 2024' has been added to the Class 3 National Insurance (voluntary) table in section 4. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rates-and-allowances-national-insurance-contributions?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=60479a82-dee4-439a-864d-b727c425843e&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 27 April | Government Guidance  **Beat the heat: staying safe in hot weather**  Government guidance  **Adverse Weather and Health Plan: heat advice**  This information aims to prepare and protect people from the health impacts of severe heat in England. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england/beat-the-heat-staying-safe-in-hot-weather>  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=99e8629c-94f6-4446-bb1e-38486fcddc1a&utm_content=daily> |