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| **January 2025** |
|  | **NHS England News - Major plan to cut waiting lists will see millions receive faster diagnosis and treatment**Hundreds of thousands of patients will be able to get directly referred and booked in for tests, checks and scans by their GP for a range of conditions as part of a radical new plan set to be launched by the NHS and government in January 2025. To find out more go to the link: -  |
| [**https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/01/major-plan-to-cut-waiting-lists-will-see-millions-receive-faster-diagnosis-and-treatment/?utm\_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=14813411\_NEWSL\_HMP\_Library%202025-01-07&dm\_i=21A8,8TI3N,2NYYES,10Q8MI,1**](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/01/major-plan-to-cut-waiting-lists-will-see-millions-receive-faster-diagnosis-and-treatment/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14813411_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202025-01-07&dm_i=21A8,8TI3N,2NYYES,10Q8MI,1) |
|  | **NHS England: Reforming elective care for patients**Our 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. |
| <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/reforming-elective-care-for-patients/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14808468_NEWSL_DHD%202025-01-15&utm_content=Report1&dm_i=21A8,8TEAC,2NYYES,10R0DF,1>  |
|  | **Centre for Mental Health - Care beyond beds: exploring alternatives to hospital-based mental health care**According to this report, an overhaul of mental health care is needed to achieve the government’s goal of shifting treatment from hospitals to communities. It finds that inpatient care is too often characterised by unsafe levels of bed occupancy, chronic staffing shortages and dilapidated facilities that risk re-traumatising patients. Black people, neurodivergent people and children are among the most poorly served. It concludes that the NHS 10-year plan must boost investment across the mental health system to drive a ‘safe and sustained shift’ towards community care, and to provide inpatient care that is high quality, close to home and adequately staffed. To find out more go to the link: - <https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/news/item/radical-overhaul-of-mental-health-inpatient-services-is-needed-to-shift-towards-community-care-says-report/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14813411_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202025-01-07&dm_i=21A8,8TI3N,2NYYES,10P6W1,1>  |
|  | **Bridging the gap: a guide to making health inequalities a strategic priority for NHS leaders** This guidance provides actionable steps for tackling health inequity within health care delivery, emphasising the role that 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: practical actions; existing statutory duties and guidance; and barriers and enablers. Read more here: -<https://www.rcp.ac.uk/news-and-media/news-and-opinion/rcp-publishes-new-guidance-to-make-tackling-health-inequalities-a-strategic-nhs-priority/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14813411_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202025-01-07&dm_i=21A8,8TI3N,2NYYES,10P6YB,1> |
|  | **Dept. of Health & Social Care - Consultation outcome: changes to regulations relating to the Care Quality** **Commission**  This is the analysis by the Department of Health and Social Care of responses to its consultation to amend the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 (the ‘2014 regulations’). Respondents supported the amendment to remove the 2014 regulations’ expiry date of 31 March 2025 and instead review the regulations every five years. The government’s next step is to introduce a statutory instrument in January 2025 for this amendment. This means it will become law, subject to parliamentary debate, in early 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-regulations-relating-to-the-care-quality-commission?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14813411_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202025-01-07&dm_i=21A8,8TI3N,2NYYES,10P03D,1>  |
|  | **Learning disability charity Hit and Care England (HFT) and Care England have released their annual Sector Pulse Check report. (14 January). It analyses the finances and workforce of adult social care.** The government’s announcement on 03 January of a new adult social care commission headed up by Baroness Louise Casey was welcomed by both organisations, but the survey findings in the report revealed a sector that cannot wait until 2028. HFT and Care England call on the government to: * commit to a multi-year funding settlement for adult social care in the 2025 Spending Review
* support the workforce and bring care workers’ pay and conditions in line with their NHS counterparts via a fully funded plan. Read the report here: - <https://www.careengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Hft-Sector-Pulse-Check-2024-Digital-Spreads-3.pdf>
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|  | **NHS complaints system lets people down, new research warns** Making a complaint is a right enshrined in the NHS Constitution. Yet, our research found a number of barriers that prevented people from making a complaint about their healthcare. Read more here: -  |
| <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/news/2025-01-27/nhs-complaints-system-lets-people-down-new-research-warns?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14851005_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202025-01-28&dm_i=21A8,8UB3X,2NYYES,10TIC9,1>  |
|  | **Can NHS digitalisation improve women’s health?** For too long, the health of 51% of the population has been overlooked. Although women have more contact with health care providers – during maternity, for health screenings and due to their roles as carers – they still experience structural barriers that leave them feeling unheard, dismissed and underrepresented. But could digitalisation help change this? The answer is a resounding yes, if done correctly. Read more here: - |
| <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/blogs/nhs-digitalisation-improve-womens-health?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14842656_NEWSL_DHD%202025-01-29&dm_i=21A8,8U4O0,2NYYES,10S17A,1>  |
|  | **Why we need to signpost patients to credible health information** Credible health information supports people to make decisions about everything from vaccination to surgery.​ People who use trustworthy health information report feeling more able to manage their health, more prepared for appointments and more confident engaging in shared decision-making.  |
| For people with long-term conditions, it is a core element of care. ​​Reliable, evidence-based health information also​ helps ease pressure on NHS services.​ Signposting patients to trusted information can improve adherence to treatment, reduce avoidable GP visits and A&E attendance, and help tackle misinformation.​​ Read more here: - <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/blogs/signpost-patients-credible-health-information?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14851005_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202025-01-28&dm_i=21A8,8UB3X,2NYYES,10SX7Y,1>  |
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| **Infection Prevention guidance and updates**  |
| 3 January | UK Health Security Agency News story**Christmas saw anticipated rise in flu, latest UKHSA data shows**Public urged to prevent further ‘new year spread’ by following good hygiene and taking up 'final chance’ vaccines where still available | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/christmas-saw-anticipated-rise-in-flu-latest-ukhsa-data-shows?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=290b037f-1ccb-4761-9971-5cf096caa4bb&utm_content=daily>  |
| 6 January | UK Health Security Agency Guidance**Easy read guide to the shingles vaccine**Easy read leaflet providing information on the shingles vaccine.Added link to the audio version of the easy read guide to shingles leaflet. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/easy-read-guide-to-the-shingles-vaccine?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=973cc3e3-2d86-423b-b8bc-6709e096b4d5&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 16 January | Cabinet Office Press release**Largest ever national pandemic response exercise to strengthen against future threats**The government's pandemic planning has been stepped up in response to recommendations from the Covid-19 Inquiry Module 1 report. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-ever-national-pandemic-response-exercise-to-strengthen-against-future-threats?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=ab0d7456-4a6e-4deb-b001-ef4587771ff4&utm_content=daily>  |
| 23 January | UK Health Security Agency News story**Young people urged to catch-up on missed HPV vaccines**UKHSA publishes the latest human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine coverage statistics in England | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-urged-to-catch-up-on-missed-hpv-vaccines?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=555cea65-2c89-484b-9599-4b2edc3ead7e&utm_content=daily>  |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |

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| 6 January | Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Guidance**Learning disability: applying All Our Health**Evidence and information for health and care professionals and the wider public health workforce to support people with a learning disability and their families.Removed the word 'intellectual' from the definition of a learning difficulty and updated to make the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities the lead organisation. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/learning-disability-applying-all-our-health?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=5defbdeb-7fb9-48a0-87f3-ab67813122bc&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  |
| 24 January | Dept. for Work and Pensions and Dept. for Business and Trade new Guidance**Keep Britain Working: Terms of Reference**Keep Britain Working is an independent review of the role of employers in health and disability. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keep-britain-working-terms-of-reference?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=08b2996a-3a3a-4e46-bf81-2ed44a55d3ac&utm_content=daily>  |
| 24 January  | Department of Health & Social Care blog**Achieving change in adult social care**Sarah McClinton, the recently appointed chief social worker for adults, has written a blog about achieving change in adult social care. | <https://socialworkwithadults.blog.gov.uk/2025/01/24/achieving-change-in-adult-social-care/>  |
| 29 January  | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Guidance published 29/11/24**Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England**Guidance from 31 March 2025 (or 31 March 2027 for micro-firms) for waste collectors and workplaces on separating dry recyclables, food waste and black bin waste. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england>  |