

Health News March 2017

A brief roundup of some of the health news and events from March. The Health News is to help keep you up-to-date with information and developments. We hope that you will find the newsletter useful.

Use the links in the document to view the articles in full.

NEWS

Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) covers 26 GP practices and a registered population of more than 213,000 patients. CCGs are groups of GPs responsible for planning and designing local health services in England.



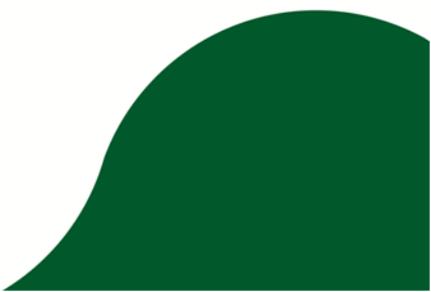
Department of Health

The Department of Health leads, shapes and funds health and care in England. The Department of Health is a ministerial department, supported by 27 agencies and public bodies.

Alcohol industry updating the health information on its labels

The alcohol industry is updating the health information on its labels, to reflect the latest scientific evidence.

25/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alcohol-industry-updating-the-health-information-on-its-labels>



Government to extend protections for NHS whistleblowers

NHS whistleblowers will be better protected by new rules that prohibit discrimination against them if they seek re-employment in the NHS.

20/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-extend-protections-for-nhs-whistleblowers>

NHS-funded nursing care rate for 2017 to 2018

The NHS-funded nursing care standard rate is being reduced to £155.05 from 1 April 2017.

15/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-funded-nursing-care-rate-for-2017-to-2018>

NHS England

NHS England leads the National Health Service (NHS) in England. They set the priorities and direction of the NHS and encourage and inform the national debate to improve health and care.

Next steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View: NHS acts to cut inappropriate out of area placements for children and young people in mental health crisis

NHS England will today announce the next steps in the drive to ensure children and young people don't have to travel far from home for mental health care, funding between 150-180 new beds.

31/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/nhs-acts-to-cut-inappropriate-out-of-area-placements-for-children-and-young-people-in-mental-health-crisis/>

Next steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View: NHS action to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer means 5,000 more lives to be saved within two years

Within two years, over 5,000 more people a year will survive cancer, meaning the NHS is on track to meet the ambitions of the cancer taskforce thanks to better prevention, earlier diagnosis and innovative new treatments for cancer.

31/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/next-steps-on-the-nhs-five-year-forward-view-cancer/>



Next steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View: England's Chief Nurse announces 'Nurse First' to attract the best and brightest graduates to nursing

Chief Nursing Officer for England, Professor Jane Cummings, has today announced a new fast track 'Nurse First' programme to attract high achieving graduates into a career in nursing.

31/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/englands-chief-nurse-announces-nurse-first-to-attract-the-best-and-brightest-graduates-to-nursing/>

Next steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View: NHS England takes next steps towards the future of primary care

NHS England is today reaffirming its commitment to transforming primary care and general practice by setting out practical measures that will ensure high quality GP services for patients and staff in the next two years.

31/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/nhs-england-takes-next-steps-towards-the-future-of-primary-care/>

NHS England to issue new guidance on low value prescription items

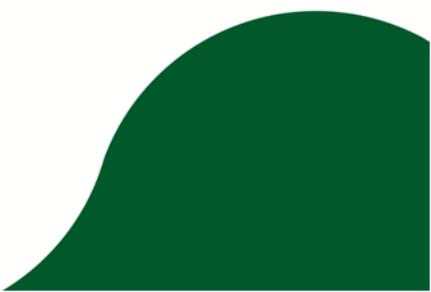
NHS England will be leading a review of low value prescription items from April 2017 and introducing new guidance for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), with a view to substantially saving NHS expenditure in this area.

28/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/guidance-on-low-value-prescription-items/>

NHS to notify heart surgery patients of small risk of infection caused by heater cooler units

The NHS is taking the precautionary step of writing to patients who have had certain types of open heart surgery to inform them that they may have a low risk of having contracted an infection caused by Mycobacterium chimaera (M. chimaera).

21/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/nhs-to-notify-heart-surgery-patients-of-small-risk-of-infection-caused-by-heater-cooler-units/>





NHS England extends support for GPs on rising indemnity costs

NHS England is today announcing the promised help for GPs struggling to cope with the rising cost of indemnity payments so that they can offer greater access for patients.

14/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/gp-support-ideminity-costs/>

NHS England calls for applications from female healthcare scientists to apply for fellowship scheme

Female healthcare scientists are invited to apply for NHS England's prestigious fellowship scheme, aimed at providing career support for women working in this field.

8/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/womens-fellowship-scheme/>

NHS England publishes latest staff survey results

The 2016 NHS Staff Survey is published today showing another year of improvements, with NHS staff engagement scores at their highest level in five years.

7/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/staff-survey/>

Knowledge Transfer Partnership announced at CSO Conference 'Bringing Science and Innovation to the Heart of the NHS'

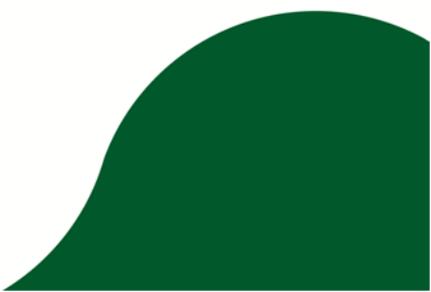
NHS England will launch its first Knowledge Transfer Partnership Programme, a 12 month development programme, aimed at clinical leaders in healthcare science at the Chief Scientific Officer's Conference today (7 March).

7/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/knowledge-transfer-partnership/>

New patient care test for hospital bed closures

NHS England Chief Executive Simon Stevens will today announce that hospital bed closures arising from proposed major service reconfigurations will in future only be supported where a new test is met that ensures patients will continue to receive high quality care.

3/3/2017 - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/new-patient-care-test/>





Public Health England

Public Health England (PHE) protects and improves the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduces health inequalities. PHE is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health.

Guidelines on reducing sugar in food published for industry

Reduction programme could see 200,000 tonnes of sugar removed from the UK market per year by 2020.

30/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidelines-on-reducing-sugar-in-food-published-for-industry>

England world leaders in the use of whole genome sequencing to diagnose TB

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) is now being used to identify different strains of tuberculosis (TB), announced Public Health England today.

28/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/england-world-leaders-in-the-use-of-whole-genome-sequencing-to-diagnose-tb>

New survey of mums reveals perceived barriers to breastfeeding

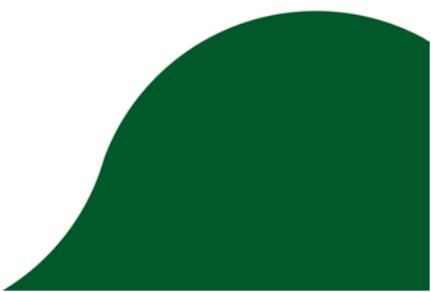
The proportion of new mothers who are still breastfeeding after 2 months drops by 40%, according to data from PHE and NHS England.

27/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-survey-of-mums-reveals-perceived-barriers-to-breastfeeding>

System launched to help tackle harms from new psychoactive substances

New online system, Report Illicit Drug Reaction, launched today to improve knowledge of the harmful effects of new psychoactive substances.

22/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/system-launched-to-help-tackle-harms-from-new-psychoactive-substances>



New data reveals suicide prevalence in England by occupation

Office for National Statistics (ONS) analysis reveals which professions have the highest risk of suicide.

17/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-data-reveals-suicide-prevalence-in-england-by-occupation>

Government funds school resource for drug and alcohol prevention

Public Health England announces new funding to expand Mentor UK's ADEPIS resource into more schools and community settings.

13/3/2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-funds-school-resource-for-drug-and-alcohol-prevention>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care.

NICE says pancreatic cancer drug is not cost effective for routine NHS use

NICE says that a drug for metastatic pancreatic cancer is not beneficial enough to justify its high cost for routine NHS use.

28/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-says-pancreatic-cancer-drug-is-not-cost-effective-for-routine-nhs-use>

HIV testing should be seen as routine practice, says NICE in new draft quality standard

Millions of people could be offered HIV tests during routine appointments as outlined by NICE.

27/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/hiv-testing-should-be-seen-as-routine-practice-says-nice-in-new-draft-quality-standard>



NICE plays key role in European project to help give better care to patients with blood cancers

NICE will help improve care for people with blood cancers through a pioneering new partnership.

24/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-plays-key-role-in-european-project-to-help-give-better-care-to-patients-with-blood-cancers>

Checks needed every year for people with a mental health problem in the criminal justice system, says NICE

NICE has published final guidance saying that people who are diagnosed with a mental health problem within the criminal justice system should receive annual checks, and staff should be trained to spot the warning signs.

21/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/people-in-contact-with-the-criminal-justice-system-should-undergo-mental-health-checks-every-year-says-nice>

NICE strengthens engagement with LSE Health

NICE and LSE Health will boost their research and educational activities aimed at informing health policy and practice across the UK.

21/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-strengthens-engagement-with-lse-health>

NICE recommends longer-lasting battery technology for implantable heart rhythm devices

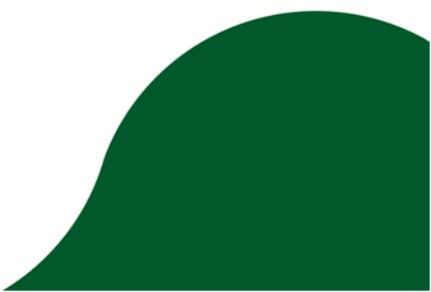
People with heart failure are set to benefit from longer-lasting battery technology in implantable heart rhythm devices, following guidance from NICE.

17/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-recommends-longer-lasting-battery-technology-for-implantable-heart-rhythm-devices>

NICE gets go-ahead to fast-track more drug approvals

Patients will benefit from access to the most cost-effective treatments nearly 5 months faster after changes to the NICE drug evaluation process were approved.

15/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-gets-go-ahead-to-fast-track-more-drug-approvals>



Treat life-threatening sepsis within the hour, says NICE

NICE is urging hospital staff to treat people with life-threatening sepsis symptoms within one hour.

10/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/treat-life-threatening-sepsis-within-the-hour-says-nice>

People who are dying should be asked about their spiritual beliefs, says NICE

NICE has published new guidance calling on healthcare professionals to ask adults in the final days of life about their religious or spiritual beliefs.

2/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/people-who-are-dying-should-be-asked-about-their-spiritual-beliefs-says-nice>

NICE says patients accessing more cancer drugs following price drops

Patients will have routine access to more cancer drugs as companies have dropped their prices as part of the reformed Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) process.

2/3/2017 - <https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/nice-says-patients-accessing-more-cancer-drugs-following-price-drops>

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and social care in England.

Independent ambulance providers – emerging concerns

We've now carried out 70 comprehensive inspections of independent ambulance services since April 2015.

21/3/2017 - <http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/independent-ambulance-providers-emerging-concerns>

Care for older people campaign launches

Today marks the launch of our 'Worked up? Speak up' campaign about care for older people.

6/3/2017 - <http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/care-older-people-campaign-launches>



CQC reports on the quality of hospital care in England

Today we have published a new report on the findings from the first round of acute and specialist hospital trust inspections.

2/3/2017 - <http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/cqc-reports-quality-hospital-care-england>

Kings Fund

The King's Fund is an independent charity working to improve health and care in England.

Social care still needs a sustainable funding settlement

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee has today published a report calling for major reform of social care funding and provision.

31/3/2017 - <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/press/press-releases/social-care-sustainable-funding-settlement>

Survey shows public satisfaction with NHS remaining steady

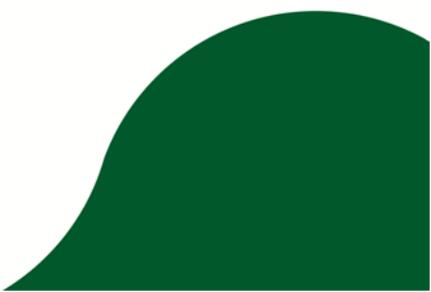
The British public's satisfaction with the NHS remained steady in 2016, according to data published today by The King's Fund.

30/3/2017 - <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/press/press-releases/public-satisfaction-nhs-remaining-steady>

Sicker patients the main reason for A&E winter pressures

Sicker patients with more complex conditions are the main reason for worsening performance in A&E departments, according to The King's Fund's latest quarterly monitoring report.

2/3/2017 - <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/press/press-releases/sicker-patients-main-reason-winter-pressure>





CONSULTATIONS

LOCAL HEALTHWATCH

Survey into people's experiences of Adult Autism Services in Calderdale and Kirklees

Healthwatch Calderdale would like to have a better understanding of the issues that adults with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) face in Calderdale and Kirklees. We want to collect your views and experiences and put them into a report which we can share with the people who commission and deliver services and hopefully help to improve the way things work in the future.

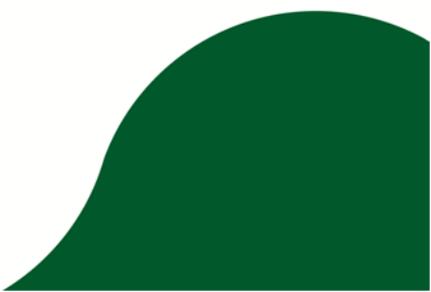
There are two separate surveys, one for adults with ASC to complete so that they can tell us about their experiences, and another one for the parents, partners and carers of adults with ASC to use to give us their views and ideas. Don't worry if you don't want to fill in the whole survey, just fill in the sections you are happy completing.

We also want to collect some real life stories to show how having an Autism Spectrum Condition can affect people's lives. There is a simple Case Study Template that people with ASC can use, to show how your access to health or social care services has been affected by your ASC, and also to put across how the condition affects you as an individual. Please be assured that no personally identifiable information from either the surveys or the case studies will be shared when reporting on the findings of this engagement.

Both of the surveys and the case study template can be accessed on the Healthwatch Calderdale website here:

<http://www.healthwatchcalderdale.co.uk/news/adult-autism-services-in-calderdale-and-kirklees/>

The surveys run for six weeks, starting on Wednesday 15th March 2017 and closing on Tuesday 25th April 2017.





REPORTS

LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION

Facing Forward - Small charities need support to survive turbulent times ahead

Government, funders and large charities must take urgent action if small charities are to survive turbulent times ahead according to new analysis published by Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales.

Facing Forward presents a candid analysis of the ten-upcoming political, economic, social and technological changes which will dramatically affect the operating landscape for the 65,000 small and medium charities working at the heart of communities across England and Wales.

[Download the Facing Forward analysis here \(PDF\)](#)

SKILLS PLATFORM

The Charity Digital Skills Report

Digital is a huge buzzword in the charity sector at the moment yet little has been done to map the sector's digital skills. The results are an in-depth insight into charities' hopes and fears for digital and what they think needs to happen for the sector to embrace it.

[Download the Charity Digital Skills report here \(PDF\)](#)

DISCLAIMER: Our Newsletter is a free service designed to support local groups and organisations. We receive and pass on information from a wide range of sources and therefore VAC cannot be held responsible for content and inaccuracies within information supplied from external partners and do not endorse the content of the links in the newsletter.

Emma Worsley - Communications Officer - emma.worsley@cvac.org.uk

