

# Horizon Scanning: 111 / GP Out of Hours / CCG's / NHS England



The NHS  
non-emergency  
number

Week Commencing:	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Produced By:	Ryan Warland

Date	Location	Subject	Link
25MAR19	National	<p><b>Theresa May's 'NHS Long Term Plan' spells more cuts and privatisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The National Health Service is currently being subjected to a government induced and government managed decline in order to legitimate arguments and policies promoting its privatisation. Historically the NHS has been able to rely on real-terms funding increases on a year-by-year basis. But, since 2010, from the Coalition government onwards, the NHS has been subjected to the longest spending squeeze in its 70-year history.</li> <li>▪ The historic average funding increase that the NHS could expect to receive has historically fluctuated around just under 4%; reaching its peak in the New Labour years when it was in excess of 7%. But, under the Coalition government, the short-lived Cameron government, and the omnishambles that has been Theresa May's premiership, the NHS has averaged a dire increase of 1%. And the results, both for the health service and for the millions of people who rely upon it, have been nothing short of catastrophic. The latest figures from NHS England are a testament to this.</li> <li>▪ They reveal that A&amp;E performance is now at an all-time low. Only 77.1% of patients admitted to A&amp;E last month were treated within four hours of admission. The worst performance on record since the four-hour target was introduced by New Labour in 2004 and part of a trend where the target has not been met since July 2015. As a result, the government and NHS England – against the advice of the medical profession – are now seeking to abolish the target. Things also don't get any better when we look at cancer performance.</li> <li>▪ At a national level, 5 out of the 8 key targets for cancer treatment have been missed since 2013/14, with the NHS' performance in meeting key cancer targets now also at an historic all-time low. The waiting list for elective surgery is also at its longest since records began.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.redpepper.org.uk/theresa-mays-nhs-long-term-plan-spells-more-cuts-and-privatisation/">https://www.redpepper.org.uk/theresa-mays-nhs-long-term-plan-spells-more-cuts-and-privatisation/</a></p>



On behalf of the seven Sussex CCGs:

NHS Brighton and Hove, NHS Coastal West Sussex, NHS Crawley, NHS Eastbourne Hailsham & Seaford, NHS Hastings and Rother, NHS High Weald Lewes Havens, NHS Horsham & Mid Sussex



25MAR19	National	<p><b>Scientists reveal when and where England’s last cigarette will be smoked</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ England will be ‘smoke free’ by 2050; the last cigarette will be smoked in Derby, scientists predicted.</li> <li>▪ If the current decline in smoking continues, England is on track to have zero smokers in 30 years, according to the new research.</li> <li>▪ At the moment, 7.4 million people in England have yet to kick the habit.</li> <li>▪ Increased use of NHS services to help people quit as well as the popularity of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco will contribute to the decline.</li> <li>▪ According to the Mirror, Bristol will become the first city to quit by having no smokers after 2024.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://metro.co.uk/2019/03/24/scientists-reveal-englands-last-cigarette-will-smoked-8997539/">https://metro.co.uk/2019/03/24/scientists-reveal-englands-last-cigarette-will-smoked-8997539/</a>
26MAR19	National	<p><b>NHS England has told pharmacy providers that the NHS Urgent Medicine Supply Advanced Service (NUMSAS) pilot is to be extended for another six months, until 30 September 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">In a letter to NUMSAS providers sent on 19 March 2019</a>, NHS England said the pilot “has been extended as part of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework arrangements until 30 September 2019”.</li> <li>▪ The PSNC added that the long-term future of the service is expected to be discussed as part of the negotiations, which it says will begin in April 2019.</li> <li>▪ The pilot, in which NHS 111 refers patients requiring urgent access to a medicine to community pharmacy, was first launched on 1 December 2016 and has been extended twice before.</li> <li>▪ According to a letter sent to <a href="#">NUMSAS providers in February 2019</a>, more than 4,170 community pharmacies have registered to provide the service, with NHS 111 referring a total of 196,588 cases to the NUMSAS between December 2016 and November 2018.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news-in-brief/nhs-england-extends-numsas-pilot-for-third-time-to-september-2019/20206328.article">https://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news-in-brief/nhs-england-extends-numsas-pilot-for-third-time-to-september-2019/20206328.article</a>
26MAR19	National	<p><b>DIY Smear Tests Will Soon Be Trialled In England &amp; This Is Why It's Such A Major Move</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A third of young women have delayed making a smear test appointment because of embarrassment, states Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust. In fact, cervical screenings have fallen to a 21-year low with just over 60 percent of 25- to 29-year-olds attending a screening in 2017, reports the Guardian. The NHS wants to increase this figure to at least 80 percent and is looking to find ways to stop people ignoring smear test invitations.</li> <li>▪ Trials of this new method will take place from September, reports the BBC. Up to 22,000 people in north and east London (the place with the lowest screening uptake) will be offered the chance to carry out their own cervical screening at home. The DIY kit — which was developed by King's College London and University College London Hospitals Cancer Collaborative — will contain a vaginal swab</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.bustle.com/p/diy-smear-tests-will-soon-be-trialled-in-england-this-is-why-its-such-a-major-move-16980537">https://www.bustle.com/p/diy-smear-tests-will-soon-be-trialled-in-england-this-is-why-its-such-a-major-move-16980537</a>

		<p>and an envelope with instructions on how to seal and send off for lab testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those considered eligible for the scheme will be people between the ages of 25 and 64 who are at least six months overdue an appointment. Currently, the NHS recommends having a smear test every three years for 25- to 49-year-olds and every five years for those aged 50 to 64.</li> </ul>	
27MAR19	National	<p><b>Researchers suggest negative media representation of these services could affect patient outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 75 percent of newspaper articles regarding out-of-hours healthcare services were found to be negative in tone, according to a new study.</li> <li>The research, led by the University of Glasgow's Institute of Health and Wellbeing, and published today in BMJ Open, found a prevalence of articles describing crises or personal narratives depicting rare and tragic patient stories that were often repeated, and could be providing a skewed picture of the service to the public.</li> <li>The researchers believe the findings provide clear examples of media representations that may negatively affect the public's perceptions of, and interactions with, out-of-hours healthcare services, and General Practitioners (GPs) in general.</li> <li>The experts would like to see guidelines adopted by news outlets to help reduce the risk of skewed public perceptions. They believe misrepresentations may affect patient outcomes from out-of-hours services, either by increasing demand through unnecessary concern over rare illnesses or, alternatively, through eroding trust and therefore delaying use of the service.</li> <li>Just over 3 percent of articles were found to be positive in tone, despite patient views of care from the 2017 GP patient survey in England finding that 66.2 percent of respondents who had recently accessed out-of-hours health services rated their overall experience as 'fairly or very good'.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-03-negative-media-representation-affect-patient.html">https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-03-negative-media-representation-affect-patient.html</a>
27MAR19	National	<p><b>GP practices are struggling – and Brexit will only make things worse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The demands of the NHS plus better conditions in the EU means pressure will mount on already overstretched staff, 'It is the norm to work 12-14 hours a day to complete clinical work.'</li> <li>Staff sickness and uncertainty caused by Brexit have worsened NHS staffing shortages. A recent <a href="#">NHS staff survey showed that just under 40% are unwell with stress</a>, the highest that we have seen in five years. And with health and social care relying heavily on staff from the EU, Brexit has the potential to compound our existing recruitment and retention problems. According to a report last week, the shortfall in GPs in England will almost triple from 2,500 to 7,000 by 2023-24. There are already 1,300 fewer family doctors than in 2015.</li> <li>Unless our organisations invest emotionally and practically in the wellbeing of staff, the NHS will always struggle to retain them – a much bigger threat to its future than recruitment alone. My practice now has a wellbeing adviser (who doubles up as a deputy practice manager). She offers emotional and practical support to us, and is introducing themed lunches once a month and protected time for yoga, mindfulness and other social events. We hope staff will benefit, especially from being able to talk about mental health issues, which is not easy when you work in healthcare.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/26/my-gp-practice-struggling-brexit-worse-staff-shortages">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/26/my-gp-practice-struggling-brexit-worse-staff-shortages</a>

27MAR19	National	<p><b>Cloud communications firm Content Guru scoops honour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A company that is making a difference to the NHS is celebrating after winning a national award.</li> <li>▪ Cloud communications provider Content Guru has been named as Vertical Application Solution of the Year at the 2019 European IT &amp; Software Excellence Awards in London last week.</li> <li>▪ The honour recognises the work of Content Guru’s cloud contact centre platform – called storm – for the UK National Health Service’s (NHS) 111 non-emergency phone service.</li> <li>▪ Judges heard that as a result of storm’s deployment, most callers seeking assistance are now five times more likely to have their problem solved by NHS 111.</li> <li>▪ Before NHS 111 adopted storm, patients were routed to any available Health Advisor, with no ability to track repeat callers or prioritise a patient with a developing illness, putting lives in danger.</li> <li>▪ Following the adoption of storm, NHS 111 has seen up to a 50%+ reduction in the number of ambulances needing to be dispatched.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.wokinghampaper.co.uk/cloud-communications-firm-content-guru-scoops-honour/">https://www.wokinghampaper.co.uk/cloud-communications-firm-content-guru-scoops-honour/</a>
27MAR19	Herts	<p><b>New integrated care service for patients in West Essex</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The West Essex NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), made up of 32 GP practices across Uttlesford, Harlow and Epping Forest, has awarded a contract for a new integrated care service, which launches next month.</li> <li>▪ Starting on April 1, the contract, awarded to Herts Urgent Care (HUC), brings together local NHS111, GP Out of Hours and GP extended access services in evenings and on weekends under one provider as an Integrated Urgent Care Service (IUC).</li> <li>▪ As part of the IUC model and in line with national guidance, the CCG has commissioned a clinical assessment service. At an early stage of the process as part of their contact with NHS111 and depending on patient’s health needs, they could speak directly to GPs, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics and others in the contact centre. This will ensure a smooth and efficient patient journey and reduce pressure on A&amp;E and ambulance services. Patients will receive the most appropriate care for their needs 24/7.</li> <li>▪ The move, which has been approved by the health service regulator NHS England, is designed to break the barriers between services and use resources more effectively. It will mean significant improvements for patients, including faster response times and clinical assessments.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.saffronwaldenreporter.co.uk/news/new-integrated-care-service-for-patients-in-west-essex-1-5959471">https://www.saffronwaldenreporter.co.uk/news/new-integrated-care-service-for-patients-in-west-essex-1-5959471</a>
27MAR19	National	<p><b>Health funding scandal: Millions lose homes to pay for care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MORE than a million homes have been sold by desperate families forced to pay care bills for loved ones, and many cases should have been funded by the NHS. The chaotic Continuing Health Care (CHC) system has seen families take out loans and spend their savings while their claims sit in limbo for up to five years.</li> <li>▪ Authorities have been accused of keeping funding options secret to save on soaring nursing costs for the elderly even though they are liable. They are often ordered to pay back years of fees plus interest running into millions. Age UK says the complaints caught in NHS bureaucracy runs to an</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1104608/families-sell-homes-pay-elderly-care-bills">https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1104608/families-sell-homes-pay-elderly-care-bills</a>

		<p>"industrial scale" and thousands of relatives believe health officials deliberately make it difficult for them to claim under the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "It is a scandal - authorities are taking advantage of people who do not know the system and cannot fight huge layers of bureaucracy," says Keith Mulcahy, who was told his mother Patricia, 80, who had vascular dementia, suffered multiple strokes, needed oxygen, couldn't speak, feed herself or move, had no medical needs to qualify for full funding.</li> <li>▪ By 2040 one in seven people will be over 70. CHC liabilities rose from £134million in 2011/ 12 to £764million in 2012/13 and continue to climb.</li> </ul>	
27MAR19	National	<p><b>Patients may not be able to get certain medications over prescriptions any longer at the NHS cuts down on unnecessary prescription costs.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A chart showing the medicines in question went viral after a woman in Manchester posted it on Facebook. It shows a list of many minor ailments which are no longer generally available on prescription. CCGs across the county have consulted with their residents as the cutbacks were rolled out from 2018.</li> <li>▪ The chart follows guidance from NHS England last year which recommended conditions for which over the counter conditions should no longer be prescribed.</li> <li>▪ Announcing the changes in 2018, NHS England stated: "The NHS has been spending around £136 million a year on prescriptions for medicines that can be bought from a pharmacy or supermarket, such as paracetamol.</li> <li>▪ "By reducing the amount the NHS spends on over the counter medicines, we can give priority to treatments for people with more serious conditions, such as cancer, diabetes and mental health problems."</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1106201/NHS-prescription-medication-changes-no-longer-available-NHS-England">https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1106201/NHS-prescription-medication-changes-no-longer-available-NHS-England</a>
27MAR19	National	<p><b>A&amp;E map reveals the 10 NHS trusts where the most patients are waiting more than four hours for treatment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alarming figures show that out of 135 hospital trusts, only six across England hit the target in February, branded as the "toughest month ever for the NHS".</li> <li>▪ On average, English hospitals only managed to see 84.2 per cent of A&amp;E patients within the four-hour time limit – the lowest figure ever, reported Daily Mail.</li> <li>▪ The shocking numbers have prompted health leaders to dub them as "dire" and "a catastrophe".</li> <li>▪ The Princess Alexandra Hospital Trust in Harlow, Essex, managed to care for only 64 percent of its A&amp;E patients last month, making it the worst-performing trust last month.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8727268/ae-map-nhs-trusts-patients-waiting-hours-treatment/">https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8727268/ae-map-nhs-trusts-patients-waiting-hours-treatment/</a>
27MAR19	National	<p><b>Low carb programme for diabetes patients included on NHS Accelerator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Accelerator is an NHS England initiative delivered in partnership with all 15 Academic Health Science Networks across England. It helps NHS sites to adopt pioneering and high-impact innovations, designed by exceptional individuals with a passion for learning and a commitment to sharing their learnings widely, to support the NHS Long Term Plan.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.medtechnews.com/news/low-carb-program-for-diabetes-patients-included-on-nhs-accel/">https://www.medtechnews.com/news/low-carb-program-for-diabetes-patients-included-on-nhs-accel/</a>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arjun Panesar started the digital diabetes support community following his grandfather's diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, and it has since evolved to become a platform for nearly 400,000 people worldwide.</li> <li>The Low Carb Programme is a structured behaviour change programme for people with type 2 diabetes, prediabetes and obesity which launched in 2015. It enables members to access educational materials, monitor their health and receive support from an online network.</li> </ul>	
28MAR19	National	<p><b>Is it time to raise the smoking age to 21?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a growing clamour to raise the age at which tobacco products can be bought, from 18 to 21.</li> <li>The All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health put forward the idea earlier this month, and now a leading doctor, Imperial College London respiratory specialist Dr Nicholas Hopkinson, has written in the British Medical Journal arguing the case for the change.</li> <li>Helping existing smokers to quit is important, says Dr Hopkinson, who also chairs the Action on Smoking and Health campaign group, but "the most vital element" is to prevent young people from starting in the first place.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47724068">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47724068</a>
28MAR19	London	<p><b>Hancock quietly made a major U-turn at health questions yesterday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After seven years and hundreds of millions of pounds wasted, the Secretary of State for Health admitted – in response to a planted question at Health Questions in parliament yesterday – that the government has abandoned plans to demolish two major hospitals, Charing Cross and Ealing in West London. In a brief aside yesterday, Matt Hancock binned the biggest reconfiguration of services in the history of the NHS.</li> <li>Announcing a U-turn on 'Shaping a Healthier Future', described as the largest hospital closure programme in NHS history by campaigners, Hancock said: "Shaping a healthier future is no longer supported by the Department of Health and Social Care... as for the changes in A&amp;E in west London... for instance those at Charing Cross Hospital...these will not happen."</li> <li>The NHS, locally and in London, had not been told about the announcement but later confirmed in a statement: "We will not be taking forward the plans as set out in Shaping a Healthier Future for changes to Ealing and Charing Cross Hospitals."</li> <li>After the closure of A&amp;E departments at Hammersmith and Central Middlesex Hospitals in 2014, waiting times grew to some of the longest in the country. It was clear that the closure plans were both politically toxic and unfeasible in the light of growing demand. The final nail was the cash crisis in the NHS. A bid for £260m to redevelop the Ealing site was refused in December 2018, with only £10m granted.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://labourlist.org/2019/03/hancock-quietly-made-a-major-u-turn-at-health-questions-yesterday/">https://labourlist.org/2019/03/hancock-quietly-made-a-major-u-turn-at-health-questions-yesterday/</a>

28MAR19	Yorkshire	<p><b>Friarage Hospital A&amp;E changes to urgent treatment centre</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The A&amp;E at the Friarage Hospital changes to an urgent treatment centre from today.</li> <li>▪ Although the change has been labelled as temporary by the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, senior doctors admitted at a public meeting last week that the move is likely to be permanent.</li> <li>▪ From today, the urgent treatment centre will not be able to treat severe chest pains, unconsciousness, severe breathing difficulties and uncontrollable bleeding.</li> <li>▪ However, adults and children will still be able to get 24-hour treatment at the hospital for more minor issues, such as suspected broken bones, cuts and grazes, strains and sprains, infections, vomiting and coughs and colds.</li> <li>▪ The public will not need an appointment to attend and can just walk in, or may be directed to the centre via NHS 111.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.hambletontoday.co.uk/friarage-hospital-ae-changes-to-urgent-treatment-centre/">http://www.hambletontoday.co.uk/friarage-hospital-ae-changes-to-urgent-treatment-centre/</a>
28MAR19	London	<p><b>Primary care networks could serve less than 25,000 patients, says NHS England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under the new five-year GP contract, practices will be provided with extra funding to join networks, which will see groups of practices serve 30-50,000 patients.</li> <li>▪ But speaking at Pulse Live today in London, NHS England’s acting director of primary care Dr Nikkita Kanani said networks could be a ‘bit smaller or a big bigger’, stating that relationship prevails over geography.</li> <li>▪ This comes as BMA GP committee executive team member <a href="#">Dr Krishna Kasaraneni told delegates at the Londonwide LMCs’ annual conference</a> that 'smaller is not necessarily better for the sake of the size of things' and that if a network is 90,000 and works for the practices then ‘that’s fine’.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/hot-topics/gp-contract-2019/20/primary-care-networks-could-serve-less-than-25000-patients-says-nhs-england/20038463.article">http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/hot-topics/gp-contract-2019/20/primary-care-networks-could-serve-less-than-25000-patients-says-nhs-england/20038463.article</a>
28MAR19	National	<p><b>UK says Vertex will share drug data after all</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In remarks to the UK Parliament, Matt Hancock, the secretary of state for health and social care, said the company has “committed to providing the data needed for an objective assessment of the drugs,” following a meeting that he recently held with Vertex chief executive Jeff Leiden.</li> <li>▪ Last summer, Vertex took the unusual step of declining to provide information about a newer treatment, called Symdeco, to the government’s cost-effectiveness watchdog. In doing so, the drug maker delayed the approval process used to make the medicine available to patients.</li> <li>▪ The move would represent a significant development in a protracted row between the company and the government over access to a cystic fibrosis treatment. The clash, which has dragged on for more than three years, has also become a symbol of the friction that can occur when cash-strapped governments confront high-priced medicines.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2019/03/27/says-vertex-will-share-drug-data-after-all/78B01K0iRqyHnDViJA21nJ/story.html">https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2019/03/27/says-vertex-will-share-drug-data-after-all/78B01K0iRqyHnDViJA21nJ/story.html</a>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The battle has centred on an older Vertex medicine called Orkambi. The cost-effectiveness watchdog rejected the price offered by the company, and the company rejected the methodology used by the agency. Ongoing talks failed to produce a deal and parents have reacted with anger by accusing both sides of making them pawns.</li> <li>▪ The clash has also been characterized by some unusual sniping. Last year, the UK National Health Service called an offer from the company “unsupportable.” Vertex turned around and quickly issued a statement saying the NHS took a position that is “outrageous” and “unconscionable.”</li> </ul>	
29MAR19	National	<p><b>We need to be creative with consolidation and integration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Saffron Cordery on the three key aspects in reforming local health economies: how we reorganise and consolidate; which economies of scale are right; and what we are trying to achieve through integration</li> <li>▪ We’ve got the national bodies reconfiguring, new regions with significantly more devolved power, clinical commissioning groups scaling up, GP federations and primary care networks coming more centre stage, integrated care systems and sustainability and transformation partnerships supporting integration, and sustained interest in trust mergers, new collaborative models and groups.</li> <li>▪ There’s nothing wrong with all this. It’s part of the “natural” ebb and flow of a system in flux. And, with the right local leadership and careful planning, it will lead to better care and patient outcomes.</li> <li>▪ However, we do need to make sure that, in amongst all this change, we don’t lose sight of the contribution of established frontline services and organisations doing a good job in difficult circumstances. And we need to be clear who actually drives the reconfiguration – is it local or is it national?</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.hsj.co.uk/we-need-to-be-creative-with-consolidation-and-integration/7024745.article?adredir=1">https://www.hsj.co.uk/we-need-to-be-creative-with-consolidation-and-integration/7024745.article?adredir=1</a>
29MAR19	National	<p><b>Antidepressant prescriptions have reached 70 million in England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The number of antidepressant prescriptions dispensed in England exceeded 70 million last year, according to data published by NHS Digital. This is almost double the number dispensed a decade ago in 2008. It is also a rise from 67.5 million in 2017 and 64.7 million in 2016.</li> <li>▪ The figures include all items dispensed by the NHS in England, except those given out in hospitals or private prescriptions.</li> <li>▪ The overall cost of prescriptions dispensed in the community in England decreased by 3.7 per cent last year, dropping from £9.2 billion in 2017 to £8.8 billion in 2018. The total number of prescription items dispensed increased slightly, rising by 0.3 per cent from 1.1 billion in 2017.</li> <li>▪ Prescriptions for some low-value over-the-counter medicines have been cut since 2017 in a bid to save money. Paracetamol, cold treatments and cough mixture are among the products that are no longer routinely prescribed as a result.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.newscientist.com/article/219808-6-antidepressant-prescriptions-have-reached-70-million-in-england/">https://www.newscientist.com/article/219808-6-antidepressant-prescriptions-have-reached-70-million-in-england/</a>

29MAR19	National	<p><b>Breakthrough cystic fibrosis drug destroyed while thousands of NHS patients wait amid funding impasse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nearly 8,000 packets (£60m worth) of a breakthrough drug which could prolong the live of people living with cystic fibrosis (CF) for decades, were destroyed last year while the English NHS and its manufacturer haggled over price.</li> <li>▪ Documents released by the House of Commons Health Committee show that 7,880 packets, each offering a 28 day supply of the drug and intended for distribution around Europe, exceeded their expiry date in 2018.</li> <li>▪ This would be enough to provide the drug for around three months to every one of the 2,834 eligible patients in England.</li> <li>▪ MPs, parents and patients campaigning for an end to the impasse and said it was an “outrage” that the drug had been allowed to go to waste.</li> <li>▪ "It's heart-breaking that packets of lifesaving drugs have been thrown away because they're out of date – what a desperate waste," said David Ramsden, the chief executive of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust calling for talks to be reopened.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/orkambi-cystic-fibrosis-nhs-england-vertex-nice-precision-medicine-a8843706.html">https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/orkambi-cystic-fibrosis-nhs-england-vertex-nice-precision-medicine-a8843706.html</a>
29MAR19	National	<p><b>Months after Imfinzi combo flops, AstraZeneca wins NICE endorsement as lung cancer monotherapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The drug will be made available by NHS England for patients with locally advanced unresectable non-small-cell lung cancer who have been treated with platinum-based chemoradiation. It was approved last September by the European Commission as the only immunotherapy to notch the nod in this patient population, giving it an edge over Merck's trailblazing checkpoint inhibitor Keytruda.</li> <li>▪ Known chemically as durvalumab, Imfinzi was approved on the basis of data from the Phase III PACIFIC trial that showed the drug induced a statistically significant improvement in progression-free survival by 11.2 months versus placebo, and also helped patients live longer. Currently there are no other treatment options for these patients whose disease has not progressed post chemoradiation, NICE noted.</li> <li>▪ The drug is administered as an intravenous infusion every two weeks, until disease progression or for up to 12 months. A 500 mg vial has a list price of £2,466 but under NICE's agreement AstraZeneca will provide it to the NHS at a confidential discounted price, NICE said.</li> <li>▪ Although the drug has the “potential to be curative”, there is a high level of uncertainty underlying its clinical evidence, so NICE has recommended its use within the Cancer Drugs Fund — a fund that aims to make promising cancer drugs available to patients before they are fully sanctioned for use in the NHS — while more data are collected.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://endpts.com/months-after-imfinzi-combo-flops-astrazeneca-wins-nice-endorsement-as-lung-cancer-monotherapy/">https://endpts.com/months-after-imfinzi-combo-flops-astrazeneca-wins-nice-endorsement-as-lung-cancer-monotherapy/</a>

30MAR19	National	<p><b>New out-of-hours GP provider appointed in Northamptonshire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A new provider for the GP out of hours service has been appointed by the Northamptonshire CCGs (Corby CCG and Nene CCG).</li> <li>▪ From Monday (April 1) DHU Health Care will be operating the service for patients registered with a Northamptonshire GP.</li> <li>▪ Dr Emma Donnelly, clinical lead for urgent care, said: "The GP Out of Hours service provides a valuable service for patients who require urgent support from a GP when their practice is closed, including patients living in nursing and residential homes, and end-of-life patients requiring urgent support.</li> <li>▪ "We want to assure patients requiring access to an out of hours GP that they will still be able to access the same high-quality service they always have."</li> <li>▪ Patients who urgently require a GP outside of core practice hours such as evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays and cannot wait until their practice re-opens will be able to access the service by calling NHS 111.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/new-out-of-hours-gp-provider-appointed-in-northamptonshire-1-8870215">https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/new-out-of-hours-gp-provider-appointed-in-northamptonshire-1-8870215</a>
30MAR19	National	<p><b>NHS England appoints RPS director for England to 'NHS Long Term Plan' advisory board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NHS England has appointed Ravi Sharma, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) director for England, to the new NHS Assembly, which was set up to support the delivery of the 'NHS Long Term Plan'.</li> <li>▪ At its board meeting on 28 March 2019, NHS England announced that 56 individuals drawn from national and frontline clinical leaders, patient leaders, staff representatives, health and care system leaders and voluntary, community and social enterprise sector leaders would form the new assembly.</li> <li>▪ NHS England has said that the Assembly, which will meet for the first time in spring 2019 and then quarterly afterwards, will have an agreed programme of work to allow for engagement activity in advance of meetings to help bring wider insight.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news-in-brief/nhs-england-appoints-rps-director-for-england-to-nhs-long-term-plan-advisory-board/20206362.article">https://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news-in-brief/nhs-england-appoints-rps-director-for-england-to-nhs-long-term-plan-advisory-board/20206362.article</a>
30MAR19	National	<p><b>'Complex' NHS app takes 30 minutes to verify patients, NHS England confirms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NHS England board members have voiced concern over the NHS app's 'complex' login system, after it was revealed that it currently takes 'around 30 minutes' to verify users.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.gponline.com/complex-nhs-app-takes-30-minutes-verify-patients-nhs-england-confirms/article/1580536">https://www.gponline.com/complex-nhs-app-takes-30-minutes-verify-patients-nhs-england-confirms/article/1580536</a>

30MAR19	National	<p><b>Equal rights transgender fertility case against NHS abandoned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Britain’s equality watchdog has abandoned a legal case against the NHS for failing to provide fertility treatments to transgender patients.</li> <li>▪ Transitioning can lead to fertility loss, but many patients are not offered a chance to have eggs or sperm stored.</li> <li>▪ The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) had threatened NHS England with a judicial review, saying it should take steps to ensure such patients were routinely be offered fertility preservation.</li> <li>▪ The watchdog had argued that those seeking treatment for gender dysphoria should be treated in the same way as those with other conditions - such as cancer - which threaten fertility.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/30/legal-case-against-nhs-failing-provide-fertility-treatments/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/30/legal-case-against-nhs-failing-provide-fertility-treatments/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/31/transgender-fertility-row-ends-with-a-draw">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/31/transgender-fertility-row-ends-with-a-draw</a></p>
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