

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



The NHS  
non-emergency  
number

Week Commencing:	8th April 2019
Produced By:	Ryan Warland

Date	Location	Subject	Link
08APR19	National	<p><b>Totally continues to turnaround Vocare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Totally Health, the services provider for the out-of-hospital healthcare sector, is turning around Vocare, an integrated urgent care services provider to the NHS, which it acquired for £11 million back in 2017.</li> <li>Vocare provides GP out-of-hours services, NHS 111 services via its call centres, and urgent care centres for NHS A&amp;E departments, for Clinical Commissioning Groups covering over 9 million patients nationally. The size of market is substantial, with the NHS spending £120bn per year. £20bn of that outsourced.</li> <li>Vocare was previously the subject of reports highlighting inadequacies of some of its services. The acquisition was aimed to expedite the turnaround in Vocare's quality of service.</li> <li>In August 2017, the NHS announced that contracts will only be awarded to "providers who are able to supply the total integrated service of the NHS 111 non-emergency service, GP out of hours and Urgent Care Centres". Given that Vocare is integrated supplying all those services, the group looks to be positioned well.</li> <li>Totally CEO, Wendy Lawrence stated, "We now look forward to the year ahead where we intend to continue to deliver high quality services, whilst seizing the opportunities that exist within the integrated urgent care sector, in line with the NHS' Long Term Plan published in January 2019 ."</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.voxmarkets.co.uk/articles/totally-continues-to-turnaround-vocare-Of64683/">https://www.voxmarkets.co.uk/articles/totally-continues-to-turnaround-vocare-Of64683/</a>
08APR19	Sussex	<p><b>Transgender student let down by NHS 'no' to fertility treatment before sex change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alex McCall, 21, thought funding would be readily available for egg-freezing and was shocked to discover it wasn't.</li> <li>With no funding from Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (BHCCG), Alex would have to pay up to £5,000 for the treatment and then another £500 a year to maintain the eggs.</li> <li>"I was so shocked when BHCCG said funding isn't available for transgender patients," he said.</li> <li>A BHCCG spokesman said: "We are currently maintaining our IVF policy in line with the approach of neighbouring CCGs."</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/transgender-student-21-refused-nhs-14251482">https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/transgender-student-21-refused-nhs-14251482</a>



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



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "This approach was decided following research with local clinicians and patients across Kent, Surrey and Sussex on equality, legal advice on equality and the prevailing NICE guidance, with all issues raised taken into account by policy and decision making groups.</li> </ul>	
08APR19	National	<p><b>NHS England announces providers in Diabetes Prevention Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liva Healthcare and Living Well Taking Control (LWTC) have been announced by NHS England as a joint provider in the Healthier You: NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme (NHS DPP).</li> <li>▪ Liva offers a digital service to complement LWTC's face-to-face intervention programme in delivering diabetes and obesity prevention for the next five years.</li> <li>▪ Type 2 diabetes is one of the biggest healthcare challenges of our time. Diabetes and its complications cost the NHS over £10 billion every year to treat, with one in six patients in hospital now having diabetes. There is strong evidence that the onset of Type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed in those at high risk through improved quality of diet, an increase in physical activity and successful weight loss.</li> <li>▪ Building on their combined experience, Liva Healthcare and LWTC have built a service for pre-diabetic patients across the UK.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://digitalhealthage.com/nhs-england-announces-providers-in-diabetes-prevention-programme/">http://digitalhealthage.com/nhs-england-announces-providers-in-diabetes-prevention-programme/</a>
08APR19	National	<p><b>NHS patients have cancer scans cancelled after supplier problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scan delays in England leading to 'stress and anxiety' for those awaiting their prognosis.</li> <li>▪ Concerns have been raised that problems related to the supply of a substance used to screen for cancerous cells is causing delays for NHS patients in England, with many exposed to repeated cancellation of scans at short notice.</li> <li>▪ Choline is a radiotracer injected into patients an hour before PET-CT scans, predominately when patients are feared to have a recurrence of prostate cancer. Without it the scans cannot go ahead.</li> <li>▪ The worries surrounding its availability come as waiting times for cancer patients in England are at a record high, with almost one in four patients not starting treatment within the two-month target period.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/apr/07/nhs-patients-have-prostate-cancer-scans-cancelled-after-supplier-problems-england">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/apr/07/nhs-patients-have-prostate-cancer-scans-cancelled-after-supplier-problems-england</a>
09APR19	Yorkshire	<p><b>New system brought in to tackle lack of NHS dental services - but patients don't know</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health chiefs have been accused of failing to adequately inform the public over a shake-up of routine dental services in West Yorkshire.</li> <li>▪ The criticism comes just days after the roll-out of a new system geared towards tackling the rising demand for access to emergency NHS dental services.</li> <li>▪ And it follows on from the creation of access pilot schemes in Bradford and North Kirklees in which</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/new-system-brought-tackle-lack-16098246">https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/new-system-brought-tackle-lack-16098246</a>

		<p>participating dental practices were required to keep free an agreed number of one-hour slots in which to see new patients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between early January 2017 and March 31 2017 25 practices (eight in North Kirklees and 17 across Bradford) took part with 4,260 appointments made available for new patients.</li> <li>However some appointments went unfilled, with activity in North Kirklees at 66.95% during the first month of the pilot.</li> </ul>	
09APR19	National	<p><b>NHS app to be mandatory for GPs – NHS England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connection to the NHS app will become mandatory for all GPs, including those already providing similar digital services, according to NHS England’s digital chief.</li> <li>Speaking to HSJ on Friday ahead of the publication on the NHS app’s pilot evaluation, interim chief digital officer Tara Donnelly said she expected the app to be a “universal offer” to all NHS patients.</li> <li>She said: “We’d like to make it a universal offer for people, regardless of what part of the country you live in, you’d have the option of using the NHS app.”</li> <li>Asked whether this meant all GPs would be required to use the NHS app, she confirmed it would.</li> <li>Ms Donnelly said she also expected the NHS app to link into the national e-referral system within 12 months, allowing patients to book an outpatient appointment.</li> <li>NHS England has said it hopes to have all GP practices connected to the NHS app by July. About a third of GPs are already signed-up.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.hsj.co.uk/technology-and-innovation/nhs-app-to-be-mandatory-for-gps-nhs-england/7024841.article?adredir=1">https://www.hsj.co.uk/technology-and-innovation/nhs-app-to-be-mandatory-for-gps-nhs-england/7024841.article?adredir=1</a>
09APR19	National	<p><b>NHS England confirms funding for major national programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHS England says a further year’s funding will be available for a major national programme, amid doubts from local commissioners.</li> <li>The national commissioner told HSJ funding will be available in 2019-20 for the national Transforming Care programme, which is aimed at improving services for patients with learning disabilities and autism.</li> <li>NHS England has missed its target to close between 30 to 50 per cent of learning disability inpatient beds by March 2019, which was when the programme was due to end.</li> <li>In the long-term plan, NHSE set a target to close 50 per cent of inpatient beds by 2023-24, and promised “increased investment” in intensive, crisis and forensic community services for patients with LD and autism.</li> <li>In 2016, the national commissioner said at least £100m would be available to local areas to implement community services needed to support the discharge of patients from inpatient units. In a statement to HSJ, NHS England said all of the transformation money available has been spent so far.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/nhs-england-confirms-funding-for-major-national-programme/7024818.article">https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/nhs-england-confirms-funding-for-major-national-programme/7024818.article</a>

09APR19	National	<p><b>Leader named for NHS digital transformation unit, but scepticism persists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NHSX, the new authority for driving forward the digital transformation of England's NHS has named its new leader - but some in the health service are questioning how effective the new centrally-run organisation can be.</li> <li>▪ Matthew Gould is currently the director general for Digital and Media at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and will take on the lead role at NHSX - the X standing for 'user experience' - this summer.</li> <li>▪ The new arm's length body is the brainchild of health secretary Matt Hancock, and has been created to accelerate the digital transformation of the NHS, both in its back office functions and also in its services for patients. Part of its pledge is to also make using technology easier for healthcare professionals - seen as key for passing on the benefits to patients.</li> <li>▪ The creation of NHSX reflects Hancocks' frustration at the slow pace of change in the NHS, and also his inability to influence projects, which until now have largely been driven by NHS England. This will change as NHSX take over from the oversight currently divided between NHS England, NHS Improvement and the Department of Health and Social Care.</li> <li>▪ Gould will set the national direction on technology, and has pledged to "improve the care that everyone in the country gets by making sure both staff and patients have the technology they need", over the next few years.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.pmlive.com/pharma_news/leader_named_for_nhs_digital_transformation_unit_but_scepticism_persists_1283965">https://www.pmlive.com/pharma_news/leader_named_for_nhs_digital_transformation_unit_but_scepticism_persists_1283965</a></p>
09APR19	National	<p><b>Mum who tried to cheat NHS of £2.5m jailed after she was caught in Ibiza</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A woman who tried to cheat the NHS out of more than £2 million by exaggerating injuries from botched surgery has been jailed after she was spotted at a hen party in Ibiza.</li> <li>▪ Lesley Maria Elder, who is 50 and lives in Poole, claimed she was left disabled by constant pain following a vaginal mesh operation and could no longer work or do routine tasks without help.</li> <li>▪ She sued the George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust in Nuneaton, where she underwent the surgery in 2010, for £2.5 million.</li> <li>▪ But a judge found she had "grossly, dishonestly and repeatedly" exaggerated her symptoms after photographs appeared on Facebook of her at her daughter's hen party in the Spanish resort.</li> <li>▪ Undercover surveillance also showed she was able to go shopping and to walk her dog regularly, without the aid of a walking stick.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/17558453.mum-who-tried-to-cheat-nhs-of-25m-jailed-after-she-was-caught-in-ibiza/?ref=mr&amp;lp=1">https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/17558453.mum-who-tried-to-cheat-nhs-of-25m-jailed-after-she-was-caught-in-ibiza/?ref=mr&amp;lp=1</a></p>
10APR19	Scotland	<p><b>Residents were left without any out-of-hours GP for a full 48 hours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The service run from Greenock Health Centre and then Inverclyde Royal after midnight was closed down on the weekend of March 30 and 31.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/17557879.residents-were-left-without-any-">https://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/17557879.residents-were-left-without-any-</a></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It meant patients were again forced to travel to a centre in Paisley instead.</li> <li>▪ Health campaigner and local Labour candidate, Martin McCluskey, is calling on the NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde health board to start publishing details about their out-of-hours service.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">out-of-hours-gp-for-a-full-48-hours/</a>
10APR19	National	<p><b>The doctor will see you now: making the whole patient-GP relationship virtual</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The UK is slowly progressing towards a situation where it may be possible for a patient’s entire relationship with primary healthcare providers, like GPs, to be virtual. From ensuring quick access to patient data, to the patient- doctor consultation and from ordering prescriptions to tracking adherence and feeding back data, a seamless virtual cycle is entirely imaginable– but how will it work in real life?</li> <li>▪ A central part of the NHS’ Long Term Plan is to improve data sharing and communication across the NHS. Since the NHS is made up of a range of large, separate, but closely linked organisations, sharing data is very complex and time consuming. Technology can help to accelerate and improve these processes, allowing clinicians and nurses to be able to focus on quality care.</li> <li>▪ As part of this commitment, NHS Digital introduced a new service called GP Connect across the city of Leeds in September last year. This scheme allows GP practices and clinical staff to share and view patient records digitally from anywhere and across different IT systems.</li> <li>▪ The NHS believes a system such as this will improve data sharing between primary and secondary care, facilitating better knowledge of a patient prior to consultation and easing, as well as improving, decisions about patient care.</li> <li>▪ NHS Digital describes the benefits of the electronic prescription service (EPS) as reducing the administration burden on doctors and pharmacists, less paper is being wasted and patients collecting repeat prescriptions without needing to go to the GP or worrying about losing the paper prescription.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.medicaldevice-network.com/features/making-the-patient-gp-relationship-virtual/">https://www.medicaldevice-network.com/features/making-the-patient-gp-relationship-virtual/</a>
10APR19	Suffolk	<p><b>GPs to access mental health crisis helpline via NHS 111</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GPs in Suffolk will soon be able to access a mental health helpline via NHS 111 for themselves and their patients, it has been announced.</li> <li>▪ Under the long-term plan, published in January, NHS England's priority is to reduce the number of suicides over the next decade by ensuring anyone undergoing a crisis can call NHS 111 and access mental health support and services 24/7.</li> <li>▪ The latest Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG board papers, released this month, said East and West Suffolk will implement 24/7 telephone access to a trained mental health crisis response team through NHS 111 option 2 for patients and healthcare professionals, including GPs, of all ages.</li> <li>▪ At the moment, NHS 111 option 2 is only available in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/clinical/clinical-specialties/mental-health/gps-to-access-mental-health-crisis-helpline-via-nhs-111/20038524.article">http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/clinical/clinical-specialties/mental-health/gps-to-access-mental-health-crisis-helpline-via-nhs-111/20038524.article</a>

10APR19	National	<p><b>'Critical' contract negotiations begin for community pharmacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Department of Health and Social Care has shared its proposals for the community pharmacy contractual framework for 2019/2020, which it says will support the delivery of the 'NHS Long Term Plan'.</li> <li>▪ The government has shared its proposals for a new community pharmacy contract for 2019/2020 "and beyond", with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) opening the latest round of negotiations.</li> <li>▪ The pharmacy contract negotiations between the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the PSNC have long been anticipated, with placeholder arrangements agreed on 8 March 2019 to secure continued funding arrangements into the 2019/2020 financial year.</li> <li>▪ Simon Dukes, chief executive of the PSNC, said the outcomes of the negotiations "will be absolutely critical for all pharmacy contractors in England".</li> <li>▪ "There are going to be some difficult conversations over the coming months but our negotiating team includes experienced PSNC members from both the independent and multiple sectors, so contractors can be assured that we will be well equipped and absolutely committed to getting the best possible deal for community pharmacy," he added.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news/critical-contract-negotiations-begin-for-community-pharmacy/20206408.article">https://www.pharmaceutical-journal.com/news-and-analysis/news/critical-contract-negotiations-begin-for-community-pharmacy/20206408.article</a>
10APR19	Dorset	<p><b>'Teething problems' hit Dorset NHS's out-of-hours service on first busy weekend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dorset HealthCare has admitted that its new Integrated Urgent Care Service suffered 'teething problems' during its first busy weekend.</li> <li>▪ Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group - which decides what services are required in the county - said last November that the new arrangements would 'make it easier for people to access urgent NHS care and advice when it is needed'.</li> <li>▪ However, complainants to the Echo claimed it was 'poorly planned and mismanaged' and had left 'many patients not getting access to trained clinicians or waiting many many hours for response to their health issues'.</li> <li>▪ DCCG claimed, "The Integrated Urgent Care Service will bring together local NHS providers to ensure a seamless, efficient service for patients, building on decisions taken during the CCG's recent Clinical Services Review."</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/17562797.teething-problems-hit-dorset-nhss-out-of-hours-service-on-first-busy-weekend/">https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/17562797.teething-problems-hit-dorset-nhss-out-of-hours-service-on-first-busy-weekend/</a>
10APR19	National	<p><b>'Two-tier system' as NHS patients miss out on medical cannabis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tight NHS restrictions mean private patients have better access to drugs, experts say.</li> <li>▪ NHS patients are being refused access to medical cannabis while private doctors prescribe it, in an emerging "two-tier system", experts and campaigners have said.</li> <li>▪ While private patients have enjoyed much greater access to medical cannabis following its</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/apr/09/two-tier-system-stops-nhs-patients-accessing-medical-cannabis">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/apr/09/two-tier-system-stops-nhs-patients-accessing-medical-cannabis</a>

		<p>legalisation last year, paying hundreds of pounds a month for appointments and prescriptions, the picture is very different for patients relying on the NHS, according to the Centre for Medicinal Cannabis and the campaign group End Our Pain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The health secretary, Matt Hancock, claimed this week that more than 80 children had been given NHS prescriptions since the law was changed in November to allow the supply of medical cannabis, including THC-based drugs.</li> </ul>	
10APR19	National	<p><b>Children Seeking Mental Health Support Face Postcode Lottery, Study Reveals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Children’s Commissioner’s research has revealed children experiencing ‘low-level mental health conditions’ (which they describe as anxiety, depression, and eating disorders), face a postcode lottery when seeking treatment and support</li> <li>▪ Results from a new study released by the Children’s Commissioner has revealed that despite real-time spending having risen by 17% overall, many children are facing a wide disparity in services provided in different parts of the country. Spending on children’s mental health services (including online support, drop-in centres, and counsellors) has fallen in real terms across one-third of areas in England, despite soaring demand and increased funding for children’s mental health nationally.</li> <li>▪ ‘Low-level’ mental health services (as described by the Children’s Commissioner’s research) are designed to help prevent problems from needing intensive, specialist intervention. By cutting back on these services, children may lose out on crucial early support.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://happiful.com/children-seeking-mental-health-support-face-postcode-lottery-study-reveals/">https://happiful.com/children-seeking-mental-health-support-face-postcode-lottery-study-reveals/</a></p>
10APR19	National	<p><b>NHS App pilot report: Ordering repeat prescriptions easy, but appointment booking 'full of jargon'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In 2017, then health secretary Jeremy Hunt unveiled plans for NHS patients in England to be able to access their medical records and book GP appointments by using an app before the end of 2018.</li> <li>▪ An NHS England and NHS Digital team has since been working on developing, building and testing the app, with a pilot that started with a GP practice in Liverpool.</li> <li>▪ It aimed to gather feedback from patients and assess its impact on staff ahead of the public rollout, and 34 practices across the country asked their patients whether they would like to participate.</li> <li>▪ According to the report, these practices use the TPP or EMIS systems, which, as of December last year, accounted for around 95 percent of the GP IT system supplier market.</li> <li>▪ Initially, the aim was to test the app with at least 2,000 users, but around 3,200 patients had registered by the end of the year.</li> <li>▪ Figures indicate 337 appointments booked and 106 cancelled, and 662 repeat prescriptions ordered.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.mobihealthnews.com/content/nhs-app-pilot-report-ordering-repeat-prescriptions-easy-appointment-booking-full-jargon">https://www.mobihealthnews.com/content/nhs-app-pilot-report-ordering-repeat-prescriptions-easy-appointment-booking-full-jargon</a></p>

11APR19	Wales	<p><b>Wales out-of-hours services at 'crisis point' as providers unable to cover weekends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Out of hours GP services across Wales are struggling and in north and west Wales the shortage of out of hours GP has reached 'crisis point', the BMA has warned.</li> <li>▪ It has emerged that out-of-hours services in West Wales are being suspended at the weekend due to GP shortages.</li> <li>▪ Dr Peter Horvath-Howard, deputy chair of the BMA's GPC Wales, said action is urgently required to provide a safely staffed service.</li> <li>▪ 'While shortages within out-of-hours GP services are reaching crisis point in north and west Wales, it is a major problem across Wales,' he said.</li> <li>▪ He added: 'The workload of GPs is already overstretched in-hours, with many feeling overworked and unsupported. This means that the number of GPs prepared to regularly work additional hours to cover OOH services has decreased. There's also a low degree of confidence in safety systems.'</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/commissioning/commissioning-topics/urgent-care/wales-out-of-hours-services-at-crisis-point-as-providers-unable-to-cover-weekends/20038517.article">http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/commissioning/commissioning-topics/urgent-care/wales-out-of-hours-services-at-crisis-point-as-providers-unable-to-cover-weekends/20038517.article</a>
11APR19	Sussex	<p><b>Local ambulance service seeks public's help this Easter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAmb) is seeking the public's help ahead of what is expected to be a busy Easter Bank Holiday weekend.</li> <li>▪ The Trust has planned ahead for the expected increase in demand but is urging people to use the service wisely and to seek alternatives to 999 if not faced with a life-threatening or serious emergency.</li> <li>▪ Over the course of the Easter weekend in 2018, staff in SECAmb's Emergency Operations Centres in Crawley and Coxheath answered in excess of 8,000 calls. Across the region the NHS 111 service also faced high demand handing some 25,000 calls in the four days.</li> <li>▪ During any period of high demand, SECAmb works hard to prioritise its response to patients with the greatest need. Anyone not facing a serious or life-threatening emergency is likely to wait longer for a response. Those not facing a serious emergency are urged to consider alternatives to 999 including calling NHS 111, visiting a walk-in centre or speaking to a pharmacist.</li> <li>▪ The Trust is also reminding people to order any repeat prescriptions and check opening hours of their GP surgeries and local pharmacies. Details of local services can be found here: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/service-search">https://www.nhs.uk/service-search</a></li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.crawleynews24.co.uk/local-ambulance-service-seeks-publics-help-this-easter/">https://www.crawleynews24.co.uk/local-ambulance-service-seeks-publics-help-this-easter/</a>
11APR19	National	<p><b>Proposed changes to NHS legislation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the midst of political chaos over Brexit, national NHS bodies have asked the government to consider changing NHS legislation. The changes are designed to make it easier for the NHS to deliver its long term plan, which focused on integrating services, boosting prevention, and improving care</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l1670">https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l1670</a>

		<p>quality. NHS England is consulting on the proposals and the parliamentary health and social care select committee is currently examining them.<sup>3</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Why do NHS leaders think new laws are needed? The answer lies in the legacy of the last round of legislative changes in the NHS and shifting directions in health policy.</li> <li>▪ The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sought to strengthen the role of competition in the health system and introduced changes to the NHS's structure. These included abolishing some organisations (such as strategic health authorities) and creating new ones (such as clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)). Fast forward to 2019, however, and competition rarely gets a mention in NHS policy.</li> </ul>	
11APR19	National	<p><b>Spring brings no respite for NHS in England</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One in seven patients spent longer than the four-hour waiting target figure in A&amp;E in March - only marginally better than the situation seen during winter.</li> <li>▪ It comes amid mounting concern about the pressure in cancer care.</li> <li>▪ That data lags behind the A&amp;E figures - it only covers the winter months - but shows nearly one in four patients waited longer than they should.</li> <li>▪ That is a record low - as the BBC reported last month - since records began 10 years ago.</li> <li>▪ Long waits are also being seen in other parts of the UK, with nearly four in 10 patients waiting more than two months for treatment to start in Northern Ireland.</li> <li>▪ Performance is better in Wales and Scotland, but both are still missing the target to see cancer patients.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47886288">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47886288</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.ft.com/content/f10f9228-5c6b-11e9-9dde-7aedca0a081a">https://www.ft.com/content/f10f9228-5c6b-11e9-9dde-7aedca0a081a</a></p>
12APR19	Sussex	<p><b>Revealed: Collapsed private provider to the NHS owes £11m</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Liquidators winding up Coperforma have found just a few thousand pounds in the company's bank accounts. But the papers also showed the company owes £11.3m to unsecured creditors, including NHS organisations and suppliers of ambulances and staff.</li> <li>▪ Clinical commissioning groups in Sussex – where Coperforma won a patient transport service contract in 2016 – have claimed the company owes them £7.6m. In a statement, the county's CCGs said: "The Sussex CCGs are actively pursuing all options to maximise recovery for the NHS of costs incurred as a result of the failure of the patient transport service contract.</li> <li>▪ "In particular, the CCGs are pursuing legal recovery against an associated party of Coperforma which provided a parent company guarantee. The CCG is currently unable to publicly give more details for legal reasons."</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/revealed-collapsed-private-provider-to-the-nhs-owes-11m/7024800.article?adiredir=1">https://www.hsj.co.uk/finance-and-efficiency/revealed-collapsed-private-provider-to-the-nhs-owes-11m/7024800.article?adiredir=1</a></p>

12APR19	National	<p><b>Sick children denied cannabis six months after legalisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Six months after the government legalised the use of medical cannabis not a single patient has been prescribed the drug on the NHS, according to campaigners.</li> <li>▪ They say thousands of people have been forced to break the law to treat their symptoms.</li> <li>▪ Even Billy Caldwell, the 12-year-old boy whose case prompted reform of medicinal cannabis laws, has been unable to secure an NHS prescription. He is one of about 50 people who have instead managed to obtain cannabis medicines via a private prescription.</li> <li>▪ In October last year, the government changed the law so that 80,000 specialist doctors could legally prescribe cannabis-based medicines.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sick-children-denied-cannabis-six-months-after-legalisation-0qbmj767f">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sick-children-denied-cannabis-six-months-after-legalisation-0qbmj767f</a>
12APR19	National	<p><b>NHS England publishes new Brexit guidance for primary care contractors - new guideline to support primary contractors in case of a no-deal Brexit.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In a letter, the government agency's EU Exit Strategic Commander Prof. Keith Willett and Dr David Geddes addressed all primary care contractors. The document is intended to be a companion to the Department of Health and Social Care's (DHSC) Operational Readiness Guidance.</li> <li>▪ The letter addresses continuity of supply as the main issue and reassures that DHSC is working closely with manufacturers and wholesalers to manage supply disruptions.</li> <li>▪ It also provides clarification about the use of Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs).</li> <li>▪ Healthcare professionals are advised to review the use of any systems which hold data abroad. Brexit would not affect the transfer of personal data outside of the UK.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.pharmacy.biz/nhs-england-publishes-additional-brexit-guidance-for-primary-care-contractors/">https://www.pharmacy.biz/nhs-england-publishes-additional-brexit-guidance-for-primary-care-contractors/</a>
13APR19	Sussex	<p><b>Residents across Sussex urged to plan ahead for a healthy and happy Easter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whether you're going away, staying at home or working over the bank holiday weekend, the NHS is asking you to plan ahead so that you're prepared, should you need them, by knowing the best place to go to get the information and support you need.</li> <li>▪ Dr Victoria Beattie, clinical lead across Sussex, said: "The key thing to remember before the Easter break is to plan in advance and ensure you and your family are well prepared for all eventualities. If you are going away this Easter, working the weekend like our NHS staff or staying at home - knowing where to go, should you have an urgent health care need."</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.wscountytimes.co.uk/news/health/residents-across-sussex-urged-to-plan-ahead-for-a-healthy-and-happy-easter-1-8888523">https://www.wscountytimes.co.uk/news/health/residents-across-sussex-urged-to-plan-ahead-for-a-healthy-and-happy-easter-1-8888523</a>

13APR19	National	<p><b>More GP appointments available due to success of pilot scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NHS England said the Time For Care scheme, tried out at certain sites since 2016, should be in place in three-quarters of GP practices by 2022.</li> <li>▪ The scheme encourages practices to try innovations to cut bureaucracy.</li> <li>▪ In 2018, 205,157 clinical hours - equivalent to GPs having 1.2 million more appointment slots - were freed up.</li> <li>▪ NHS England said that represents close to £40m in time saved, as the average cost of an appointment is £30.</li> <li>▪ The scheme also saved 330,096 administration hours in the past year.</li> <li>▪ The scheme now aims to cover three-quarters of GP practices by 2022.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47909618">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47909618</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gponline.com/time-care-scheme-save-almost-4m-gp-appointments-2022/article/1581937">https://www.gponline.com/time-care-scheme-save-almost-4m-gp-appointments-2022/article/1581937</a></p>
14APR19	National	<p><b>Dishonest NHS ambulance chasing lawyer struck off</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A dishonest 'ambulance chasing' solicitor who overcharged the NHS while pursuing clinical negligence cases has been struck off after a judge ruled that fining him £30,000 was too lenient.</li> <li>▪ Andrew Good, who founded Rapid Response Solicitors in Hull in 2003, had tried to charge £400 an hour to represent patients suing the health service.</li> <li>▪ The lawyer was fined last year after his fees were found to be "grossly excessive". However, the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (SRA) appealed the decision, and earlier this month a judge ruled in the High Court that Good be struck off the Roll of Solicitors after finding he had been dishonest.</li> <li>▪ More than 150 cases involving Good's firm were analysed at the original tribunal. In 22 of them, Rapid Response charged £400 an hour in fees. Despite the panel finding "most of the work" carried out should have been billed at between £111 and £146 an hour, it failed to make a ruling that he was dishonest.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/04/13/dishonest-nhs-ambulance-chasing-lawyer-struck/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/04/13/dishonest-nhs-ambulance-chasing-lawyer-struck/</a></p>
14APR19	National	<p><b>Put a name forward for NHS workers who go 'above and beyond'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The NHS Parliamentary Awards were created to celebrate NHS staff, carers and volunteers - their hard work, innovative ideas and unwavering efforts to put patients first.</li> <li>▪ There are 10 categories, including a Lifetime Achievement award to honour those who have devoted their life or career to making the NHS better.</li> <li>▪ For more information visit the Parliamentary awards website on <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-parliamentary-awards/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-parliamentary-awards/</a></li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/17570148.put-a-name-forward-for-nhs-workers-who-go-above-and-beyond/">https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/17570148.put-a-name-forward-for-nhs-workers-who-go-above-and-beyond/</a></p>