

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



The NHS
non-emergency
number

Week Commencing:	29th April 2019
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Date	Location	Subject	Link
29APR19	National	<p>Low level of NHS competitive tendering revealed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National Health Service competitively tenders contracts worth less than 2 per cent of overall clinical commissioning expenditure, according to new data that come as health leaders are seeking legal changes to end “overly rigid procurement requirements”. ▪ Earlier this year Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, published plans to reverse some of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act, which increased the role of competition in the NHS in 2013. ▪ However, the proposed changes have alarmed the body that represents non-NHS healthcare providers, which submitted Freedom of Information requests to discover the level of tendering by Clinical Commissioning Groups under the current rules. ▪ David Hare, chief executive of the Independent Healthcare Providers Network, argued there was “a real concern that by tendering so few services NHS patients are missing out” on the extra capacity and skills that can be provided by independent, voluntary and social enterprise providers. ▪ He claimed the independent providers were already being locked out of local NHS systems “risking entrenching ‘like-it-or-lump-it’ care in too many parts of the country”. ▪ An NHS spokesperson said: “The NHS currently has to spend significant sums of taxpayers’ money every year tendering billions of pounds worth of contracts, even where the incumbents are the only realistic providers, providing little to no benefit to patients.” 	https://www.ft.com/content/9fa761f0-66ab-11e9-a79d-04f350474d62
29APR19	National	<p>Emergency department waiting times improvement for East Kent Hospitals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Kent Hospitals Trust has released figures to show emergency department waiting times are improving for their patients, despite a rise in the number of people needing emergency treatment. ▪ The improvement in East Kent’s ‘Type 1’ waits – waits in an emergency department- in the last year is the fourth best improvement in England. ▪ Between April 2018 and March 2019, 13,362 more people attended the Trust’s emergency departments and minor injuries units than in the previous year, an increase of 6.4 per cent. ▪ In total, staff treated 220,738 people over that period, or 605 people a day. 	https://theisleofthetnetnews.com/2019/04/29/emergency-department-waiting-times-improvement-for-east-kent-hospitals/



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"> Despite the rise in the number of people using the service, the Trust’s performance against the national waiting time standard of patients being seen, treated, admitted to a hospital bed or discharged within four hours has improved. The emergency department wait time performance has improved by 8.2% from 2017/18 to 2018/19 – the fourth best improvement in England. 	
29APR19	National	<p>'This is the NHS having a real go at placed-based working'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Long Term Plan’s focus on population health has prompted a reassessment of how the health service interacts with local government. No one could accuse Jacquie White of having a straightforward job. As director of service development at NHS England, she is firstly charged with supporting the creation of integrated care systems (ICSs) across all parts of the country. She also leads the organisation’s work on population health management, trying to ensure the broad determinants of health and wellbeing are accounted for in systems, and that data is used to identify specific at-risk groups and ultimately drive improvements in outcomes for local people. It’s an awful lot to put on the LinkedIn profile. Yet Ms White has a simple, frank summation of her role relating to population health. It is, she says, about helping the NHS “catch up”. “We know this isn’t a completely new concept,” she told an LGC roundtable on population health, held in association with NHS England. “It builds on some really amazing public health skills and abilities around analytics and data. “But what we want to do, and what we believe is the true opportunity – particularly through integrated working and through ICSs – is to take the willingness, the enthusiasm, the commitment to want to work together to improve population health, and use population health management as the way to do business.” 	https://www.lgcplu s.com/services/hea lth-and-care/this-is-the-nhs-having-a-real-go-at-placed-based-working/7028643.a rticle
29APR19	National	<p>Candida auris: Eight Britons who died in UK hospitals were infected with Japanese super-fungus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shapeshifting fungus - Candida auris - was not recorded as the cause of death in any of the patients who were already seriously ill when they became infected. However, the fungus was detected in each patient before they died and may have weakened them as they were treated for their original conditions. The revelation by Public Health England (PHE) illustrates the threat that Candida auris may still pose after it emerged in Japanese hospitals a decade ago. Dr Colin Brown, Consultant Medical Microbiologist for Public Health England’s national infection service, said: “Candida auris is an uncommon fungus in the UK and our enhanced surveillance shows a low risk to patients in healthcare settings. PHE is working closely with the NHS to provide expert support and advice on infection control measures to limit the spread of Candida auris. NHS hospitals that have experienced outbreaks of Candida auris have not found it to be the cause of death in any patients.” 	https://www.stand ard.co.uk/news/uk /eight-britons-who-died-in-hospital-were-infected-with-japanese-superfungus-a4128901.html

29APR19	National	<p>Using digital to help young peoples' mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NHS has labelled the issue of addressing mental health among young people as 'in crisis', as the support available fails to keep pace with the alarming increase in demand for it. According to the Nuffield Trust, the number of 4-24 year olds reporting a longstanding mental health issue has increased six fold in the last 20 years. ▪ What else has changed in the last 20 years? In less than a lifetime, digital devices and the internet have infiltrated every corner of our lives. Young people today are growing up in a digital world; their lives have been changed by it, for better or worse. ▪ While some have tried to combine these two facts as cause and effect – and there is some evidence of internet addiction and its harmful consequences – what is more productive is to accept that technology can't be removed from our lives but can be used as a solution rather than merely a (potential) problem. After all, tech is neither good nor bad – we must use it as the great enabler it can be. ▪ Digital is the medium by which most young people conduct their lives, and is an ideal way to integrate additional support with existing offline support as 99% of 12-25 year olds are spending more than an hour a day on their smartphones and online. 	https://digitalagen.da.io/insight/using-digital-to-help-young-peoples-mental-health/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=Comms&utm_campaign=Blog_Promo&utm_content=Eleanor_Bradley
30APR19	Scotland	<p>Motion passed for general practice funding boost in Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A motion proposed by the Scottish Green party to boost funding for general practice has been approved in Scottish Parliament. ▪ The Scottish Greens called for the vote to allocate 11% of the health budget to primary care last week, in an attempt to address a 'crisis' in GP recruitment and retention. ▪ However, the motion was non-binding - meaning that it will not automatically progress to law - but instead operates as a way for public officials to address the concerns of their constituents. ▪ Parliamentary co-leader of the Scottish Greens and Lothian MSP Alison Johnstone said she was 'concerned about the increasing gaps in out-of-hours GP service provision across Scotland, given the value of this service to local communities.' ▪ Reduced out-of-hours services have been an ongoing problem in Scotland. It was recently reported that cuts to out-of-hours have been extended for a further six months in Fife. 	http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/partners-/motion-passed-for-general-practice-funding-boost-in-scotland/20038609.article https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l2038
30APR19	North West	<p>NHS 111 number slammed as 'not fit for purpose' with more people hanging up before calls for help are answered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members of Tameside's strategic commissioning board expressed fears that people giving up on the helpline are heading instead to already overstretched hospital accident and emergency departments. ▪ According to the most recent figures, in February the North West 111 service failed to meet any of its key performance indicators set by the health service. ▪ These included how many people were transferred directly to a doctor or nurse during their call, which was 	https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/nhs-111-number-slammed-

		<p>just 38.37 %, nearly half the target of 75 %.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Just over half of people received a call back within the specified ten minute timeframe - which was also significantly below the 75 % target. ▪ The performance report presented at the meeting also states there are efforts to improve technology within the call centres and collaboration with other 111 providers to find better ways of working. 	not-16199153
30APR19	Yorkshire	<p>Health watchdog gives cautious welcome to merger of North Yorkshire NHS bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A health watchdog has given a cautious welcome to a move to merge 51 GP practices responsible for the planning and purchasing of the vast majority of health services for 423,000 residents. ▪ North Yorkshire scrutiny of health committee chairman Councillor Jim Clark said he hoped the merger of cash-strapped clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) covering Hambleton, Richmondshire, Scarborough, Ryedale and Harrogate districts would help tackle the county's NHS deficit, which is projected to be £31m this year despite radical cutbacks. ▪ The CCGs governing bodies are tomorrow (Tuesday, April 30) expected to approve a move to submit a merger request to NHS England to be operational as one North Yorkshire CCG from April next year. ▪ The CCGs have reported "significant capacity constraints" and have said it is clear that "different ways of working" are necessary to address the issues. ▪ The move comes just six years after the CCGs replaced a deficit-laden primary care trust, amid hopes the GPs' groups would make the county's NHS system work within available funding. 	http://www.hambletontoday.co.uk/health-watchdog-gives-cautious-welcome-to-merger-of-north-yorkshire-nhs-bodies/
30APR19	National	<p>NHS England partners with Gilead, Merck, AbbVie in billion-pound hepatitis C eradication push</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As states in the U.S. partner with hepatitis C drug makers on Netflix-style, flat-rate drug contracts, England just teamed with three drugmakers in its own massive effort to eradicate the disease. ▪ NHS England signed on with Gilead Sciences, Merck & Co. and AbbVie to purchase hepatitis C drugs at competitive prices and implement programs to find patients around the country. The government awarded Gilead "gold status" for hepatitis C drug procurement, Gilead said, meaning the company "provided the best value to the NHS both in terms of the price of their products as well as commitment and proven ability to support patient-finding." ▪ NHS says five new hepatitis C meds from the three drugmakers will be available at the "best prices" for the agency and taxpayers. The deal grew from procurement talks that started last February. ▪ The contract will be worth almost £1 billion, the NHS has said. AbbVie previously sued NHS England over the procurement talks, but a judge tossed that case in January. The lawsuit delayed the program's rollout by six months, NHS said. 	<p>https://www.fiercepharma.com/pharma/nhs-england-picks-gilead-for-massive-hep-c-contract</p> <p>https://www.biospace.com/article/nhs-england-teams-with-gilead-merck-and-abbvie-to-eliminate-hepatitis-c/</p>

30APR19	National	<p>Surgery shown to improve walking for children with cerebral palsy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children with cerebral palsy will now be able to have a surgical procedure that can improve their ability to walk, after analysis by the NIHR Guy's and St Thomas' Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and King's College London showed it to be effective. ▪ The procedure, known as selective dorsal rhizotomy, involves cutting some of the sensory nerves from the legs as they enter the spinal cord in order to relieve stiffness, improve mobility and reduce children's pain levels. The operation is irreversible, and it had not previously been fully established whether it helped to improve children's quality of life, or what the longer term effects were. ▪ John Stewart, director of specialised commissioning at NHS England, said: "Thanks to this study the NHS has been funding this innovative treatment for children. As well as being fantastic news for patients and their families it is also an example of the kind of innovations that the NHS will continue to deliver as part of the Long Term Plan." 	https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-04/nbrc-sst042919.php
30APR19	National	<p>NHS in grip of staff crisis: Experts warn 50,000 medics urgently needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fifty thousand hospital doctors and nurses are needed to solve a critical NHS staffing crisis, campaigners reveal. Experts warn today that failure to recruit enough frontline workers will see the health service placed "on life support" with patients waiting longer in A&E, for routine operations and to see their GP. ▪ The crisis is most acute in nursing, which is missing 40,000, and linked to a higher chance of dying on wards. ▪ But the problem runs deeper as there are also 7,000 too few family GPs. ▪ The NHS – Europe's biggest employer – has a workforce of 1.1 million but 100,000 jobs remain unfilled. ▪ Unless urgent action is taken it is feared that figure could jump to 250,000 by 2035. ▪ Latest NHS England figures show there are 39,148 nursing vacancies and 8,953 unfilled medical staff jobs including doctors, oncologists and paediatricians. ▪ Not only is the NHS unable to attract enough people to fill the vacancies it already has, but it is also struggling to keep hold of those continuing to work long hours under enormous pressure and for relatively little money. ▪ A disturbing number are quitting because of exhaustion with as many as two in five NHS staff reporting they have felt unwell in the past year because of work-related stress. 	https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1120752/NHS-staff-crisis-Experts-warn-50000-medics-urgently-needed
01MAY19	National	<p>Drug shortages tracker helps GPs avoid prescribing out-of-stock medicines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GPs across the UK could avoid wasting thousands of hours prescribing out-of-stock medicines by consulting a live drug shortages tracker developed by medicines experts. ▪ The free drug shortages tracker has been developed by GPonline's sister website MIMS in response to calls from top GPs for an 'early warning system' to flag up medicine shortages. ▪ GPonline reported earlier this year that nine out of 10 GPs had seen an increase in medicines they prescribe 	https://www.gponline.com/drug-shortages-tracker-helps-gps-avoid-prescribing-out-of-stock-

		<p>becoming unavailable over the past 12 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One in three GPs spend more than an hour a week writing new prescriptions for second-choice drugs, a survey found, and many doctors forced to prescribe alternative medicines say that patients have been negatively affected, including coming to harm or experiencing a slower recovery. 	medicines/article/1583305
01MAY19	National	<p>Only 9p per patient of global sum uplift is new funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPs in England will receive just 9p of new funding per patient this year to cover the costs of inflation and the new work involved in the GMS contract, with the bulk of the global sum uplift coming from money recycled elsewhere. Although the global sum rose 92p per patient for 2019/20, almost 90% of that was from a transfer of funds from schemes the NHS is phasing out - seniority payments and the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee. The remainder - 9p - is to cover the costs of inflation and the extra work involved in the core contract, such as providing appointment slots for NHS 111, funding to fulfil the requirements around subject access requests and the work caused by problems with Capita's primary care support services. The 9p per patient also incorporates the funding to widen the extended hours DES access levels from the current 70% of the population to 100%. NHS England has committed to increasing funding in general practice by £109m this year. However, much of this has gone towards the costs of the new NHS indemnity scheme, which was introduced to ease spiralling costs for GPs, the requirement to join networks and a ringfenced chunk of funding is for employing non-GP staff members. 	http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/partners/only-9p-per-patient-of-global-sum-to-cover-inflation-and-other-changes/20038596 article
02MAY19	Herefordshire	<p>NHS services survive winter strain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FINALLY, NHS staff can believe that the winter pressures are over for another year, but their work has been recognised by Tenbury MP Harriett Baldwin, who has praised the efforts of NHS staff who have coped well with the extra demand that hits local hospitals and GP practices during the winter. Across the UK, more than 380,000 patients were treated within four hours in Accident and Emergency and long waits for surgery fell for the eighth month in a row. Over seven million people were assessed, treated and discharged or admitted in four hours between December and the end of March – a record high albeit in a mild winter. NHS chiefs have published data on the extra demand faced this year and the way the health service has coped well with the winter pressures. Ambulance services have responded to the most urgent calls faster and the NHS 111 advice line dealt with an extra 75,000 calls over the winter period. 	https://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/regional/17611613.nhs-services-survive-winter-strain/

02MAY19	National	<p>A big problem for the NHS: reconciling local independence with central control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In recent years, the English NHS's structure has been quietly revamped and many CCG functions dispersed – leading to a bewildering array of acronyms. ▪ Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutory bodies established under Andrew Lansley's 2012 Health and Social Care Act. There are around 200 of them in England (the devolved nations have different arrangements) and they assumed responsibility for the bulk of NHS services in their local areas in April 2013. Yet even though they have just marked their sixth birthday, there won't have been much celebrating. CCGs are currently in their death throes. ▪ There has been no new legislation underpinning the changes and CCGs will continue to exist in name until there is. But over the past couple of years, the structure of the English NHS has been quietly revamped and many CCG functions are being dispersed. The bewildering array of acronyms can make one's eyes glaze over. We're witnessing yet another chapter in the interminable struggle to reconcile local independence with central control, a dilemma that has dogged the NHS for three decades. ▪ The latest iteration will split power two ways. The bulk will be concentrated in regional bodies called integrated care systems (ICSs), responsible for populations of up to 2 million. But as a nod to the notion of local control, practices are being grouped into primary care networks (PCNs) covering 30,000-50,000 patients, with modest budgets to shape some services in their area – albeit that the kinds of provision they can make are being tightly determined by the centre. ▪ This latest change is yet another cycle in the continual revolution the NHS has been experiencing for decades. Staff in our local CCG are exhausted; turnover is at epidemic rates – sickness absence, too. 	https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/health/2019/05/big-problem-nhs-reconciling-local-independence-central-control
02MAY19	Cambridgeshire	<p>NHS help line referring more people to A&E, speaking fears of added strain on services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NHS 111 helpline in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is referring more people to emergency services or calling an ambulance for them, prompting concerns about extra strain on A&E departments. ▪ The latest NHS England figures show that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough call centre sent 3,901 people to A&E in March 2019, 21 per cent of all callers. ▪ That was up from 19 per cent in March 2014, when 2,825 patients were referred to A&E. That was in the first year of full service for NHS 111. ▪ NHS 111 is a 24-hour helpline for patients who need medical help but do not need to call 999, which took the place of NHS Direct and some GP out-of-hours services in 2014. ▪ Cambridgeshire and Peterborough helpline handled 18,431 calls in March 2019. It referred 60 per cent of these to primary care, ie. GP surgeries, pharmacies and dentists. About 3% were advised to rest at home. 	https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/nhs-111-figures-show-increase-in-a-e-referrals-1-6028198

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The service is commissioned by local CCGs, which make spending decisions for health services, and the help lines are run by ambulance trusts, GP surgeries and private healthcare companies. ▪ Adam Steventon, director of data analytics at the Health Foundation, said: “There is broad recognition that a large number of people calling NHS 111 are being directed to A&E, and NHS England have stepped up the amount of clinical input available to those seeking help through this route to try and tackle this. “In looking at the impact of making more clinicians available in NHS 111 call centres, we found that children and young people who were reviewed by a GP were less likely to go on to A&E than other patients.” ▪ Its report said that health professionals have been strongly critical of the decision to scrap the NHS Direct Service and replace it with NHS 111. 	
02MAY19	National	<p>NHS England chair champions Cambridge medical robotics technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Robotics technology from Cambridge, set to revolutionise keyhole surgery across the planet, is being championed by NHS England chair Lord David Prior. ▪ Lord Prior officially opened CMR Surgical’s new Cambridge HQ and said NHSE would do whatever was necessary to put the capabilities of CMR’s Versius robotics arm in front of hard-pressed UK surgeons. ▪ CMR is now up to more than 300 staff, superbly funded from China and other global centres, and is set to scale globally with hubs in Beijing and California, Business Weekly understands. ▪ Lord Prior said: “What a fantastic centre Cambridge is for technology and life science innovation. I have told CMR Surgical CEO Martin Frost that NHS England will do all it can to champion this Cambridge UK innovation with surgeons in the UK. ▪ “Robotics is going to play a growing role in surgery covering an increasing range of different procedures and specialties giving greater accuracy, quicker recovery times and better outcomes. ▪ Versius is expected to be used in hospitals in the UK and continental Europe in the next 12 months, with wider international expansion shortly after as the company completes significant regulatory milestones. 	https://www.businessweekly.co.uk/news/biomedtech/nhs-england-chair-champions-cambridge-medical-robotics-technology
03MAY19	National	<p>GP crisis left a million patients without doctor on call over weekends and evenings in 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'National recruitment crisis' makes being available to do out-of-hours GP work even less likely, says Dr Simon Abrams ▪ More than a million people last year were left without urgent on-call GP cover on some weekends and nights because of a shortage of family doctors to staff out-of-hours services, an investigation found. ▪ There were at least 146 urgent care shifts around the country in 2018 which did not have a single GP, a rise from 57 recorded last year though true numbers in both years are likely to be higher. ▪ Hywel Dda Health Board which covers more than 384,000 patients spread across rural west Wales accounted for the majority of these. ▪ However Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which spans 331,000 patients in East London, and North East Lincolnshire CCG, covering 129,000 patients, also struggled to find cover. 	https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/gp-crisis-nhs-staffing-cuts-on-call-evening-weekend-2018-a8897236.html

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctors leaders said that a national shortage of GPs and daily pressures of routine general practice left many doctors unable to take on extra shifts. 	
03MAY19	National	<p>Emmert Roberts: When commissioning budgets and financial silos risk obstructing holistic care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the things that is consistently reinforced throughout medical training is the principle of holistic care. As healthcare professionals we're continually told that we should be treating the whole person, not just the disease. Yet our healthcare system does not always make it easy to put this principle into practice, as I recently discovered. As a psychiatrist specialising in substance misuse, I work in a community drug and alcohol team that provides treatment to a population of people who either use or are dependent on a variety of substances. As you might expect some don't have a GP, or if they do they can be reluctant to go and see them. Many are vulnerable. Some are engaged in sex work, some have experienced domestic violence and abuse, and some are homeless. The idea of going to a sexual health service is not a suggestion that many of them are willing to engage with. The structural ring-fencing of budgets and the movement of some commissioning priorities to local authorities has created a climate of budgetary protectionism. What's worse is that by constructing these financial silos, we're potentially fostering an environment that can harm individual vulnerable patients. Addiction treatment is not merely a question of the correct dose of methadone, or when to refer someone for detoxification. Addiction treatment is, among other things, about being part psychiatrist, part GP, part social worker, and part advocate. I wanted to be able to offer a quick, efficacious, cost effective intervention that would reduce the risk of unwanted pregnancy, and the potential psychological, financial, and emotional turmoil with which it can be associated. 	https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2019/05/02/emmert-roberts-commissioning-budgets-financial-silos-risk-obstructing-holistic-care/
03MAY19	National	<p>England opens new NHS 'front door' to health innovators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK government has unveiled an upgrade to its Accelerated Access Collaborative (ACC) initiative, aimed at creating a single 'front door' into the NHS for health innovation. The new measures have been announced to coincide with today's annual conference of the ABPI, the UK pharma industry association, to make it easier for new health innovation to be taken up by the NHS. The ACC, first set up last year, will undergo a significant upgrade to its capabilities, and will now transfer to a dedicated unit to be headed up by Dr Sam Roberts, NHSE's director of innovation and life sciences. Announcing the new initiative at the conference this morning, health minister Nicola Blackwood said: "I want the NHS to be at the forefront of cutting-edge treatments and medical innovations – but often it can take too long for products to get from the bench to the bedside." The minister promised that the ACC will speed up this process, so "patients and England's health service can be the first in the world" to benefit from the most transformative technologies and treatments as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. 	https://www.pmlive.com/pharma_news/england_opens_new_nhs_front_door_to_health_innovators_1286579 https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252462684/Department-of-Health-enhances-medical-innovation-programme

03MAY19	Oxfordshire	<p>NHS England defends Oxford cancer scan privatisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS England has defended a controversial decision to privatise a vital cancer scanning service in Oxford and across the wider Thames Valley, despite the Health Secretary Matt Hancock's pledge earlier this year that there would be no further privatisation of the NHS. ▪ In February Mr Hancock told a parliamentary committee there would be 'no privatisation of the NHS on my watch'. ▪ However, in March it was revealed NHS bosses had struck a deal which would see PET-CT scans in the Thames Valley carried out by private firm InHealth rather than by doctors at the Churchill Hospital. ▪ The privatised service would offer two new mobile scanning centres in Milton Keynes and Swindon, as well as retaining the service in Oxford. ▪ However cancer specialists have raised serious patient care concerns over the new service saying the mobile sites could not offer the same quality of scans as can be provided at the Churchill. 	https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/17615921.nhs-england-defends-oxford-cancer-scan-privatisation/
04/05/19	National	<p>Number of patients waiting two weeks or more to see their GP soars by 14% in a year, official figures reveal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The number of people waiting more than two weeks to see their GP in England has shot up by more than 1.5million this year, official data shows. ▪ Between January and March, 12.3million appointments were made 15 days or more after patients had booked to see their doctor. ▪ This is a 14 per cent rise from the 10.8million during the same period last year, and represents one in six patients overall. ▪ Experts said the figures show how GPs' workloads are expanding as the number of appointments continues to grow but the number of doctors falls. 	https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6988703/Number-patients-waiting-two-weeks-GP-soars-14-year.html
04/05/19	National	<p>Is NHS England's hub-and-spoke dispensing agenda making a comeback?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While a C+D investigation has confirmed formal meetings have not taken place, a lawyer and NHS England's own rhetoric suggest this dispensing model is due a comeback ▪ Rumours have swirled around the possibility of NHS England making a renewed push to expand the use of hub-and-spoke dispensing since the start of the year. ▪ The commissioner told C+D in January that changes to government regulations, for example, around hub-and-spoke dispensing, may be required as a means to reform community pharmacy's "wider supply supplements" – an ambition set out in its long-term plan for the NHS. ▪ New technology and automation present exciting opportunities to increase the efficiency of dispensing, while safely freeing up clinical time for pharmacists to spend caring for patients, the commissioning body claimed at the time. 	https://www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk/feature/nhs-englands-hub-and-spoke-dispensing-agenda-making-comeback

04/05/19	National	<p>GP at Hand in talks to form its own primary care network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Babylon’s GP at Hand practice is in talks over becoming a single primary care network, in a move which GP leaders warned risked further destabilising the wider system. ▪ GP practices across England are in the process of forming collaborative networks covering 30-50 000 patients, which will allow them to access additional funding for patient services. Practices have until 15 May to submit their application to register to join a network. ▪ GP at Hand has almost 50 000 patients registered at its “digital first” NHS GP practice in Hammersmith, west London, and believes it is “well placed” to become a single network. ▪ But GP leaders said such an agreement would contradict requirements agreed by the BMA and NHS England¹ that networks must be developed within local geographical boundaries, 	https://www.bmj.com/content/365/bmj.l2064
05/05/19	National	<p>Shropshire's two CCG groups propose merger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A plan has been revealed to merge a county's two clinical commissioning groups. ▪ Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) said they have been set a target to cut running costs by 20%. ▪ A report says it is felt a merger, which will cut down on duplication of work, is the best way to do this. ▪ Their governing bodies will be asked consider the report on the move at meetings later this month. ▪ CCGs replaced Primary Care Trusts in April 2013 as the NHS bodies responsible for the planning and commissioning of healthcare services locally. ▪ Shropshire CCG is in debt, unlike Telford, and the group was placed in special measures in 2015 because of a multimillion-pound deficit. 	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-shropshire-48167352
05/05/19	National	<p>NHS chief pays tribute to midwives on his return to maternity ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens has returned to the hospital where one of his children was born to pay tribute to midwives to coincide with International Day of the Midwife. ▪ Mr Stevens visited St Thomas’ maternity ward in London to record a message praising the role midwives play in the lives of new families “delivering excellent care at one of the most special times in their times”. ▪ There are around 26,500 midwives working in England and thanks to their hard work and dedication there has never been a better time to have a child, noted NHS England. ▪ The chief nursing officers of the four UK countries also tweeted messages of support for midwives. ▪ The global event, designed to recognise and celebrate the work of midwives, has been held each year since 1992. 	https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/workforce/nhs-chief-pays-tribute-to-midwives-on-his-return-to-maternity-ward/7028858.article

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NHS has a plan for taking on anti-vaxxers: ignore them ▪ In England, dips in vaccinations have more to do with missed appointments than vaccine disinformation, so health authorities are opting not to fight anti-vaxxers head-on 	
05/05/19	National	<p>NHS digital leaders leaving for private sector over Health Secretary's tech 'revolution', IT chief warns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NHS digital leaders are leaving for the private sector in frustration over the “chaos” involved in introducing Matt Hancock’s tech “revolution”, a departing IT chief warns. ▪ Richard Corbridge, formerly chief digital and information officer at Leeds teaching hospitals, describes the “excrutiating” situation of trying to realise centrally-imposed slogans such as “axe the fax” and “purge the pager” without dedicated funds. ▪ Writing for The Telegraph, he points to a brain drain of top digital talent necessary for transforming the Health and Social Care Secretary’s flagship ambition into a reality. ▪ Improving digital innovation in the health service is a central plank of the organisation’s 10-year plan announced in January. 	https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/05/04/nhs-digital-leaders-leaving-private-sector-health-secretarys/