



9 November 2023

The latest news and updates from NHS England for those working in Primary Care.

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Primary Care

Improving lipid management – new infographic published

[NHS England has published a new infographic summarising how the NHS is working to deliver improved lipid management and steps primary care teams can take to capitalise on the opportunity to improve cardiovascular health outcomes.](#)

New resources for occupational therapists in primary care

[The Royal College of Occupational Therapists has developed a range of resources to support occupational therapists and their employers in primary care.](#) These include capability frameworks, sample job descriptions and case studies.

Importance of enrolling all eligible staff onto the NHS pension scheme

The [NHS Pension Scheme](#) is a valuable benefit that not only provides financial security to employees, but also plays a significant role in attracting and retaining staff.

It is vital that all eligible employees are enrolled from the start of their employment. Employers

should provide guidance and support to new employees during their induction process, ensuring they understand the benefits of the NHS Pension Scheme. [Join these sessions for more information.](#)

Tirzepatide currently not available in England

[Tirzepatide \(Mounjaro™\) received a positive recommendation for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in NICE guidance published on 25 October 2023.](#)

Although guidance has been issued, there is currently no stock of tirzepatide available in England and it therefore cannot be prescribed.

The pre-filled pen of tirzepatide is being assessed through the MHRA's standard licensing process and is awaiting the outcome.

General Practice

Switching to digital telephony contracts

As part of the [Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care](#), funding is being made available to all general practices that are still on analogue telephone lines, to transition to new digital telephony systems. [In a letter published on Monday, practices that have signed up in principle to transition must sign contracts by 15 December to take advantage of the funding offer.](#)

Practices should engage promptly with their ICB digital/primary care lead, and NHSE's national Commercial and Procurement Hub: commercial.procurementhub@nhs.net.

[Analogue phone networks will be switched off nationally by December 2025.](#)

Practices are also encouraged to join the [general practice improvement programme's](#) free support and training offers, which will help them get the best out of digital telephony.

Giving patients online access to new GP health record entries

GP practices are contractually required to give all patients online access to their new health record entries and 72.6% of practices now provide full online prospective record access by default.

[Read a message](#) from Director for Primary Care and Community Services, Amanda Doyle, thanking general practice teams who have switched on access and those working to support the changes.

Remaining practices will need to achieve compliance as soon as possible using bulk-enablement functionality. EMIS practices have until 15 November to [register](#) for the final opportunity to bulk-enable patients and avoid the administrative burden of manually enabling individual patients.

Veteran friendly GP practices

GP practices are encouraged to become [Veteran Friendly Accredited](#) to support veterans who may need support with their mental or physical health.

Taking just 20 minutes to join, the scheme by the Royal College of GPs is a free, and quick-to-implement programme, which provides practice teams with a simple process for identifying, understanding, supporting and, if needed, referring veterans to specialist healthcare services.

Anastrozole licensed for the prevention of breast cancer

[Anastrozole, which has been used for many years as a breast cancer treatment, has now been licensed by the MHRA as a preventative option](#) – which could help prevent around 2,000 cases of breast cancer in England.

The [NICE guideline on familial breast cancer](#) recommends anastrozole as a preventative treatment for postmenopausal women at increased risk of breast cancer and provides information on assessing risk and referral criteria.

Recording GP appointments – consolidated guidance

[NHS England has produced consolidated guidance bringing together guidance from key GP appointment data documents](#). The guidance supports the [Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to Primary Care](#) and Capacity and Access Improvement Payments and includes details of where to access support.

Community pharmacy

Free lateral flow device tests available from community pharmacy for eligible patients

[COVID-19 lateral flow devices are now available free of charge from participating community pharmacies for patients who are potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatments](#).

This will replace the online and telephone ordering service via GOV.UK and 119, which ceases on 15th November 2023.

The service is visible in [NHS Profile Manager](#). Participating pharmacies are encouraged to ensure their profile is up to date, so patients and other health care professionals can check NHS.uk to access the service.

Funding for the foundation training year 2025/26

As part of the implementation of the reforms to the Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists, NHS England is [harmonising the funding available to all foundation training sites hosting a foundation trainee pharmacist \(previously pre-reg pharmacist\)](#).

Each site employing a foundation trainee pharmacist in the 2025/26 training year will receive £26,500 per foundation trainee pharmacist.

The funding will be consistent across all sectors of practice and all regions of England and provide a contribution to all costs of hosting a trainee, including supervision, administration and salary.

Get involved

Social prescribing link worker (SPLW) survey 2023

Social prescribing link workers have until 10 November to complete [NHS England's Social Prescribing Link Worker Survey 2023](#).

It seeks input from SPLWs on their experiences over the past year, covering areas such as employment, training, equipment and their role. Survey responses will shape national support, policies, guidance, and quality improvement.

Training and development

General practice improvement leads programme

Applications are open for the next cohort of the [General Practice Improvement Leads' programme](#), which will start in January 2024.

This is an accredited personal development programme for those working in general practice. Participants gain new perspectives, skills and confidence in using quality improvement tools and techniques for service redesign and for leading teams through change.

National care navigation training

[Practice and PCN managers can nominate one member of staff to complete virtual care navigation training at foundation or advanced level](#). This training is fully funded by NHS England until March 2024.

Please email carenavigationtraining@england.nhs.uk with any questions. [Care navigation training FAQs are also available](#).

Funding for nursing associates

Trainee nursing associate (TNA) places are available to staff in general practice and primary care networks. Financial support includes £8,000 employer grant per TNA and Apprenticeship levy funding up to £15,000. Send expressions of interest to england.nationalnursingteam@nhs.net.

Upcoming webinars and events

Various dates. [NHS Pension Scheme webinar series](#)

October 2023 – February 2024. [Understanding and awareness of Ramadan and how it can affect people with a serious mental illness](#)

October – March 24. [Patient participation: online learning programme](#)

9 November, 8-9pm. [A call for action for CVD prevention](#)

9 November, 1pm - 2pm. [Launch event of UCLPartners' Proactive Care Framework for Heart Failure](#)

14 November, 5.30pm. [NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme - Patient Entrepreneur Programme introduction](#)

15 November 2023 / 23 January 2024, 12.30pm - 2pm. [What is a Modern General Practice model? webinar](#)

20 November, 12pm - 1.30pm. [Applying the NHS England Inclusion Health and Digital Inclusion Frameworks in practice](#)

22 November, 12.30-2pm. [NHS Resolution: Learning from dermatology claims](#)

28 November, 1-2pm. [Making a difference: Becoming a Peer Leader](#)

5 December 2023 / 6 March 2024, 12.30pm - 2pm. [Navigating through Modern General Practice 'how to' and the GP Improvement Programme](#)

7 December 2023, 12:30pm - 2pm. [Matching Workforce to Demand webinar](#)

Catch up

Missed a recent national webinar? You can view slides and recordings below:

- [General Practice webinars](#)
- [Primary Care Network webinars](#)
- [Recovering Access to Primary Care webinars](#)

Download patient-facing materials

- [The general practice team](#) - introducing the different roles
- [NHS staff respect](#) - encouraging kindness to staff
- [General practice access routes](#)
- [Supporting general practice referrals to the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service](#)

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