

In this issue of Weekly News:

- Response to Budget 2020
- Help stop the spread of fake coronavirus news
- Consultation response on Patient Safety Specialists
- Have your say: What do you want to see from healthcare companies?

BUDGET 2020

"Desperately weak on long-term health"

On Wednesday the chancellor Rishi Sunak delivered the Budget and although it was strong on short-term measure to help with the current coronavirus situation, it was desperately weak on long-term health challenges.

Commenting on Budget 2020, Patients Association CEO Rachel Power said: "The Budget offered no recognition of the collapse in NHS performance over the last few winters, with hospitals now in year-round crisis conditions, and more and more people struggling to access appointments, medicines and treatments".

"The total absence of any new commitment on social care is disgraceful - the Prime Minister's promise on the day he took office is now in tatters. We have still yet to see any evidence of a strategic approach to health and wellbeing that aligns all areas of government policy to implement a coherent vision."

You can read our [full comments on Budget 2020 on our website](#).

Help us stand up for patients

The Patients Association is working hard to ensure that patients are heard, and we are always campaigning to improve things for patients. We have a lot to do and your support is vital to allow us to keep up the pressure and demand better for all patients. If you are able to support us with a donation – either one-off or a monthly direct debit – we would be very grateful. [Click here to make a donation.](#)

[Donate](#)

Patient Safety Specialists

NHS organisations are being asked to identify at least one person from their existing staff to take on the role of Patient Safety Specialist and NHS Improvement has been running a [consultation](#) (which closed this week) on the requirements for this role.

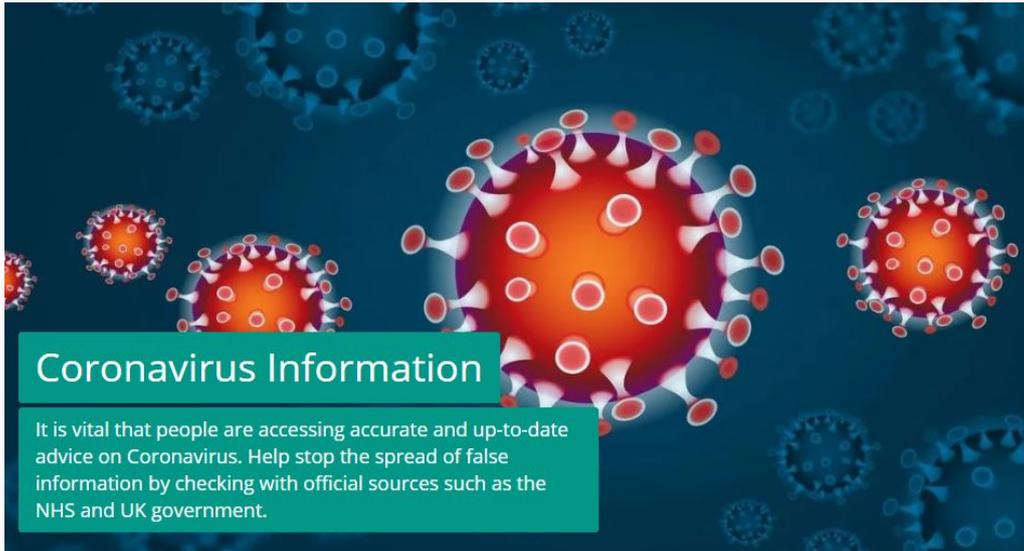
In our consultation response the Patients Association welcomes the creation of this role, although we are clear that the role should be given the full support and seniority required to ensure a positive impact on patient safety.

We have called for the following with regards to the Patient Safety Specialist role:

- It should be more senior, working directly with the CEO and Board members within NHS Trusts
- The role's responsibilities in leading on patient safety should be set out more clearly
- The creation of this role should bring new funds into patient safety, not just cannibalise existing resources.

You can read [our full consultation response](#) (pdf) on our website.

Coronavirus: Don't let fake advice go viral



We know people are worried about the spread of COVID-19 and keen to know how best to protect themselves. For older people, people with existing conditions, or those who are awaiting elective surgery, we understand that the current situation may be particularly unsettling, and that is why it is vitally important that you access accurate information.

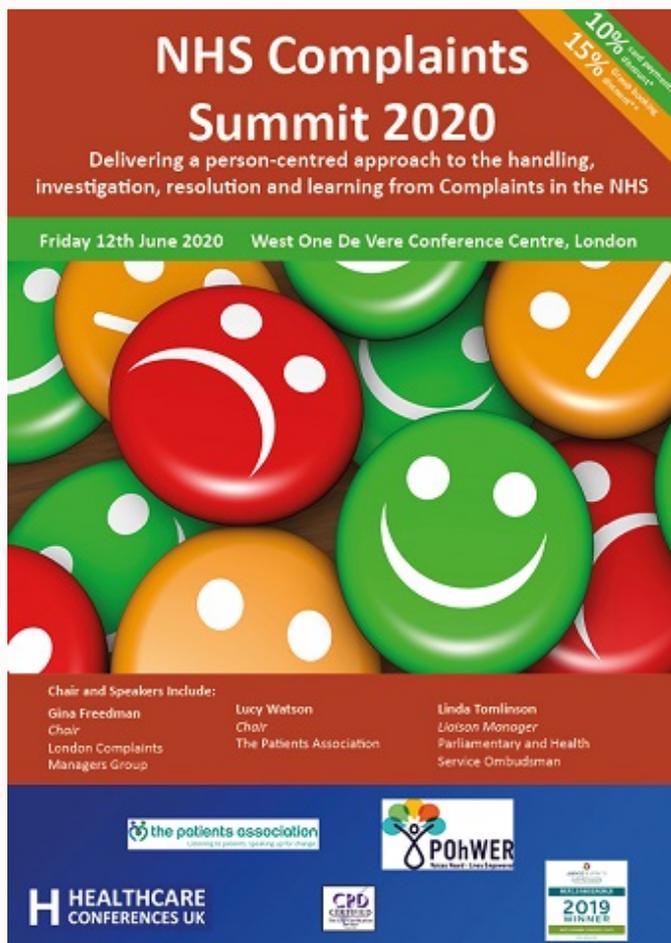
The Patients Association is a charity that works to support patients and speak up for improvements in access to care, but we are unable to offer specific medical advice. We do encourage you to check the latest information and recommendations from the [UK government website](#), information about the [government response to COVID-19](#), and refer to the [official NHS pages on coronavirus](#).

Please be sure to check information that you see online or on social media before you share it with others. It is important that people are well-informed, so take care with the information you're sharing as we are aware of a few examples of false information spreading online. If in doubt, refer to the [NHS site](#) for the official medical advice.

NHS COVID-19 Info

NHS Complaints Summit 2020

12th June - at [West One De Vere, London](#)



Chaired by Lucy Watson, Chair of the Patients Association, this CPD-certified national conference will support you to improve the effectiveness of complaints handling within your service and ensure that complaints lead to change and improvements in patient care. The conference will also focus on supporting staff through complaints and moving towards a new code of practice for complaints. Find out more on the [conference website](#).

Members of the Patients Association can secure a 20% discount on tickets to this conference, using the code *hcuk20spkr*. If you've not already joined us you can [do so, for free, on our website](#).

What would you like to see healthcare companies doing to support patients?

One of our corporate supporters, Janssen, is exploring how they can better meet the needs of patients and their caregivers by designing treatments, support, and services around patient priorities.

They would like to hear what is important to as a patient or caregiver so that they can better understand the areas they should be focusing on. You can have your say by completing [this online survey](#) and sharing your views.

[Take the Survey](#)



Patients Association CEO Rachel Power spoke at an event at the House of Commons this week on the topic of shared decision making. Picture Credit: Abbvie

What our team is reading this week

[The extraordinary decisions facing Italian doctors](#)

Kings Fund: Statement on Budget 2020

Menstrual cup misuse 'can cause pelvic organ prolapse'

Charities call for inquiry into deaths linked to benefits cuts

Coronavirus: 'Confused' GPs using catering aprons because they have not been given protective equipment

About Us

Our vision is that health and social care will be delivered in a way that meets every person's health and social care needs.

Our mission is to give effect to the patient voice, to improve patient experience and support people to engage fully in their own care. Find out more about our values on our [website](#).

 [Share](#)

 [Tweet](#)

 [Forward](#)

The Patients Association is a registered charity in England and Wales (1006733). A company limited by guarantee. Registered company in England and Wales (02620761)

Registered address: P Block, Northwick Park Hospital, The North West Hospitals NHS Trust, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3YJ
