**NHS NETWORKS weekly news stories:**  
12:40pm, 26 July 2019  
[Ten minute appointments are not enough – Royal College of GPs](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ten-minute-appointments-are-not-enough-2013-royal-college-of-gps)  
Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, chair of the Royal College of GPs has responded to research indicating that up to a third of GPs have been unable to properly diagnose patients because of short appointment times.   
  
12:39pm, 26 July 2019  
[CQC and data guardian agree to work together](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/cqc-and-data-guardian-agree-to-work-together)  
CQC and the National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care (NDG) have published a memorandum of understanding setting out how the organisations will work together to safeguard the wellbeing of the public receiving health and social care in England.  
  
12:37pm, 26 July 2019  
[NHS England annual assessment](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-england-annual-assessment)  
The secretary of state for health and social care has published his annual assessment of NHS England for 2017 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019.   
  
12:36pm, 26 July 2019  
[Recommendations to commissioners from clinical audits and patient outcome research](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/recommendations-to-commissioners-from-clinical-audits-and-patient-outcome-research)  
Commissioners need to put people at the heart of service design and evaluation, according to new reports on end of life, maternity and cardiac care.   
  
12:35pm, 26 July 2019  
[Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2019/20](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/better-care-fund-planning-requirements-for-2019-20)  
The Department for Health and Social Care, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the NHS have published the Better Care Fund (BCF) planning requirements for 2019-20, which sets out the detailed requirements to local areas on developing and implementing BCF plans following the 2019-20 Better Care Fund Policy Framework, which was published in April.  
  
12:34pm, 26 July 2019  
[New GP Connect guidance available](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-gp-connect-guidance-available)  
NHS Digital’s GP Connect programme team has provided new guidance for potential users of GP Connect, which includes where to start and the approvals process.   
  
12:32pm, 26 July 2019  
[Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults: general practice reporting](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/safeguarding-children-and-vulnerable-adults-general-practice-reporting)  
NHS England has published a letter and supporting documents outlining the arrangements needed for managing local authority requests for child protection reports.   
  
12:26pm, 26 July 2019  
[Improving mental health support through schools and colleges](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/improving-mental-health-support-through-schools-and-colleges)  
NHS staff will work with more schools and colleges through mental health support teams (MHSTs), with 123 more teams to be recruited, expanding work to improve mental health support for children and young people.   
  
12:24pm, 26 July 2019  
[Digital-first primary care: consultation on patient registration, funding and contracting rules](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/digital-first-primary-care-consultation-on-patient-registration-funding-and-contracting-rules)  
A consultation on digital-first primary care has been launched which includes proposals to amend the out-of-area registration rules, change the CCG allocation system to enable a quarterly recalculation, allow new digital-first practices to be established in under-doctored areas and adjust the new patient premium.   
  
12:23pm, 26 July 2019  
[CCGs get their scores for patient engagement](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ccgs-get-their-scores-for-patient-engagement)  
CCGs are obliged to report on their performance against a patient and community engagement indicator as part of the improvement and assessment framework (IAF).   
  
12:20pm, 26 July 2019  
[Technology could reduce harm from poor radiology follow-ups](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/technology-could-reduce-harm-from-poor-radiology-follow-ups)  
This report demonstrates where technology could play a pivotal role in reducing harm caused by failures in communication or follow-up of unexpected significant radiological findings.   
  
12:19pm, 26 July 2019  
[Health, care and the 100-year life](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/health-care-and-the-100-year-life)  
A child born today has a one in three chance of living to 100. Increased longevity should be celebrated.   
  
12:15pm, 26 July 2019  
[Leadership skills for PCN clinical directors](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/leadership-skills-for-pcn-clinical-directors-1)  
Clinical directors will be responsible for planning and implementing the strategy for their primary care network (PCN).   
  
12:19pm, 25 July 2019  
[Asset-based community development to support your primary care network](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/asset-based-community-development-to-support-your-primary-care-network-1)  
Social prescribing link workers will play a pivotal role in connecting primary care networks (PCNs) with the existing groups and services that support their patients’ wellbeing at community level.   
  
12:18pm, 25 July 2019  
[Health matters: whole systems approach to obesity](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/health-matters-whole-systems-approach-to-obesity)  
This edition of Health Matters focuses on Public Health England’s guide to taking a whole-system approach to obesity.  
  
12:17pm, 25 July 2019  
[Report charts inequalities in adult social care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/report-charts-inequalities-in-adult-social-care)  
The Salvation Army has published a report on inequalities in adult social care.   
  
12:15pm, 25 July 2019  
[Social workers and a new Mental Health Act: final report](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/social-workers-and-a-new-mental-health-act-final-report)  
This inquiry report is in response to the independent review of the Mental Health Act 1983.   
  
12:14pm, 25 July 2019  
[Health and justice annual review: 2018 to 2019](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/health-and-justice-annual-review-2018-to-2019)  
This report outlines health trends in prisons and other prescribed places of detention.   
  
12:12pm, 25 July 2019  
[MPs call for more walking and cycling](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/mps-call-for-more-walking-and-cycling)  
An MPs’ report concludes that increased levels of walking and cycling can help combat the economic, human and environmental costs of inactivity, climate change, air pollution and traffic congestion.   
  
12:30pm, 24 July 2019  
[NHS top tips for staying cool](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-top-tips-for-staying-cool)  
With thousands of people ending up in hospital each year as a result of heat and allergies, England’s chief nurse has called on the public to help prevent children and older people falling victim to the extreme heat.   
  
12:28pm, 24 July 2019  
[Patients encouraged to manage their appointments with NHS e-referral service](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/patients-encouraged-to-manage-their-appointments-with-nhs-e-referral-service)  
Encouraging patients to book their own hospital or clinic appointments online, rather than by phone, saves practice time and can cut DNA (did not attend) rates by half.   
  
12:26pm, 24 July 2019  
[£20 million to help 10,000 young people into NHS careers](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ps20-million-to-help-10-000-young-people-into-nhs-careers)  
The Department of Health and Social Care has announced a £20m fund to support 10,000 young people from all backgrounds to get a career in the NHS.   
  
12:24pm, 24 July 2019  
[EMIS gets approval for full roll-out of GP Connect access record](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/emis-gets-approval-for-full-roll-out-of-gp-connect-access-record)  
EMIS has got the go-head to roll-out software to make it easier for patient information to be shared across different care settings.   
  
12:23pm, 24 July 2019  
[Changes to NHS pensions for senior clinicians](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/changes-to-nhs-pensions-for-senior-clinicians)  
The government is consulting on proposals to make the NHS pension scheme more flexible and transparent for senior clinicians.   
  
12:21pm, 24 July 2019  
[Patients with rare diseases give their views on genomics](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/patients-with-rare-diseases-give-their-views-on-genomics)  
Genomics England commissioned research into the views of patients and carers around the introduction of whole genome sequencing into the NHS.   
  
12:19pm, 24 July 2019  
[Drink free days 2018: campaign evaluation](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/drink-free-days-2018-campaign-evaluation)  
The government has published an evaluation of the drink free days campaign run in 2018.   
  
11:36am, 23 July 2019  
[Same-day pharmacy consultations offered to patients](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/same-day-pharmacy-consultations-offered-to-patients)  
Patients with minor health issues will be offered same-day appointments at their local pharmacy.   
  
11:35am, 23 July 2019  
[Our future in the land](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/our-future-in-the-land)  
A report by the RSA argues for action in the next ten years to prevent the collapse of ecosystems, to recover and regenerate nature, and to restore people’s health and wellbeing.   
  
11:33am, 23 July 2019  
[GP contract services, England, 2018-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/gp-contract-services-england-2018-19)  
NHS Digital has published data for GP contract services in England for the year to 31 March 2019.  
  
11:32am, 23 July 2019  
[LSE takes inequality to a new level](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/lse-takes-inequality-to-a-new-level)  
The London School of Economics has published the “multidimensional inequality framework” (MIF) for measuring and analysing inequalities, and for identifying causes and potential solutions.  
  
11:30am, 23 July 2019  
[Community pharmacy contract – the next five years](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/community-pharmacy-contract-2013-the-next-five-years)  
NHS England has published a summary of changes to the community pharmacy contractual framework for 2019/20 to 2023/24, which was published by the Department of Health and Social Care and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC).  
  
10:09am, 22 July 2019  
[Podcast: Why PCNs need to take a strategic view of premises](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/podcast-why-pcns-need-to-take-a-strategic-view-of-premises)  
Primary care networks have been set up to ensure that better and more joined-up local services are available to their communities, but none of this can happen without premises.   
  
10:08am, 22 July 2019  
[Screening strategy to address health inequalities](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/screening-strategy-to-address-health-inequalities)  
Public Health England believes that targeted provision of screening services is one of the measures that can reduce health inequalities.   
  
10:07am, 22 July 2019  
[New deputy chief people officer](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-deputy-chief-people-officer)  
NHS England and Improvement has appointed Professor Em Wilkinson-Brice as deputy chief people officer.   
  
10:06am, 22 July 2019  
[Better care fund renewed for 2019/20](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/better-care-fund-renewed-for-2019-20)  
Ministers have confirmed that the better care fund will be renewed for 2019 to 2020, bringing the pooled funding to over £6.4 billion.   
  
10:04am, 22 July 2019  
[Dame Sally urges global perspective on health in her last report](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/dame-sally-urges-global-perspective-on-health-in-her-last-report)  
In her final annual report as England’s chief medical officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies outlines the UK’s leading role in global health and highlights the need to share international knowledge and experience.   
  
10:02am, 22 July 2019  
[Honour for trust that cut lengths of stay in hospital](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/honour-for-trust-that-cut-lengths-of-stay-in-hospital)  
A programme that cut lengths of stay for people getting ready to leave hospital by an average of six days has been honoured with a NICE in Action award.