**NHS NETWORKS weekly news stories:** 2 August 2019  
[Podcast: Working with community pharmacy](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/podcast-working-with-community-pharmacy)  
Community pharmacies are in a similar position to general practice. Core income is shrinking and pharmacies need to consider new ways to make money. Under a new contracting deal, a national scheme to offer consultations is due to start from October.   
  
12:39pm, 2 August 2019  
[New mythbuster: NHS services delivering online primary care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-mythbuster-nhs-services-delivering-online-primary-care)  
NHS GP practices are increasingly providing online services as patients demand faster and more convenient access.   
  
12:37pm, 2 August 2019  
[Mental health implementation plan](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/mental-health-implementation-plan)  
The mental health implementation plan provides a framework to deliver the mental health commitments of the NHS long-term plan.   
  
12:36pm, 2 August 2019  
[Strength and balance quality markers](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/strength-and-balance-quality-markers)  
Strength and balance exercise programmes are a key intervention for falls prevention.   
  
12:34pm, 2 August 2019  
[New indicators for general practice and CCGs](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-indicators-for-general-practice-and-ccgs)  
NICE has published new and amended indicators for general practice and clinical commissioning groups.   
  
12:33pm, 2 August 2019  
[Case study: working in a multidisciplinary team](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/case-study-working-in-a-multidisciplinary-team)  
A case study from NHS England shows how wider teams of clinicians, social workers and other health and care professionals could help people to avoid hospital.   
  
12:14pm, 1 August 2019  
[GP practices told to prescribe sport and exercise](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/gp-practices-told-to-prescribe-sport-and-exercise)  
The Royal College of GPs and Sport England have teamed up to launch the “active practice charter” to encourage GP practices to increase activity and reduce sedentary behaviour in their patients and staff.   
  
12:13pm, 1 August 2019  
[A short history of social care funding reform in England](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/a-short-history-of-social-care-funding-reform-in-england)  
Adult social care in England – unlike health care – is not free at the point of use.   
  
12:11pm, 1 August 2019  
[Healthwatch charts experience of service users with a sensory impairment](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/healthwatch-charts-experience-of-service-users-with-a-sensory-impairment)  
Healthwatch has published anecdotal evidence about the experience of using NHS services for people with a sensory impairment or loss.   
  
12:08pm, 1 August 2019  
[Mental health trusts work together on eating disorders](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/mental-health-trusts-work-together-on-eating-disorders)  
NHS England has published a case study of a regional service improving care for adults with eating disorders.  
  
12:05pm, 1 August 2019  
[Health on the shelf](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/health-on-the-shelf)  
This report explores the public’s perception of supermarkets and the marketing strategies retailers use to boost sales.   
  
12:04pm, 1 August 2019  
[Cancer care could be better](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/cancer-care-could-be-better)  
While most patients are happy with the cancer care they receive, there is still room for improvement, according to a survey of 4000 cancer patients and carers in 10 countries.   
  
12:02pm, 1 August 2019  
[Young people’s mental health mapping exercise](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/young-people2019s-mental-health-mapping-exercise)  
A research team at the Universities of Manchester and Cardiff are inviting NHS staff working in services supporting children and young people experiencing common mental health problems to complete a mapping exercise survey.  
  
12:00pm, 1 August 2019  
[Local leaders by design](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/local-leaders-by-design-1)  
Practice managers have always been “local leaders” by default, but the advent of primary care networks (PCNs) will be a stiffer test of leadership ability requiring leaders by design.   
  
13:49pm, 31 July 2019  
[Dealing with difficult people and situations – courageous conversations](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/dealing-with-difficult-people-and-situations-2013-courageous-conversations-14)  
This workshop looks at workplace challenges and fears, what causes stress in these difficult situations, and how to cope with them.   
  
13:48pm, 31 July 2019  
[Social prescribing link workers](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/social-prescribing-link-workers)  
NHS England has published a guide for primary care networks (PCNs) introducing the new role of social prescribing link worker into their teams.   
  
13:47pm, 31 July 2019  
[New website for general practice nurses](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-website-for-general-practice-nurses)  
Community nursing charity the Queen’s Nursing Institute (QNI) has launched a website for general practice nurses, which is describes as an online repository of educational and clinical resources.   
  
13:40pm, 31 July 2019  
[NHS England want to hear your views on vaccination and immunisation](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-england-want-to-hear-your-views-on-vaccination-and-immunisation)  
As part of the new five-year GP contract NHS England and the BMA agreed to hold a review of vaccination and immunisations procurement, arrangements and outcomes – its purpose is to reduce complexity, improve value and increase impact, without cutting practice income.   
  
13:38pm, 31 July 2019  
[Four in 10 hospital admissions from care homes avoidable, says report](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/four-in-10-hospital-admissions-from-care-homes-avoidable-says-report)  
More than four in ten (41%) emergency admissions to hospital involving care home residents could be avoided with better provision of preventive primary care, community support or NHS care in care homes.  
  
13:35pm, 31 July 2019  
[Individually funded social care won’t work](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/individually-funded-social-care-won2019t-work)  
Nuffield Trust has that individual funding of social care won’t work.   
  
14:43pm, 30 July 2019  
[Practice mergers, super-partnerships and networks - understanding your options](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/practice-mergers-super-partnerships-and-networks-understanding-your-options-2)  
General practices can no longer afford to take a go-it-alone approach if they hope to survive. As the NHS Long Term Plan makes clear, the welcome injection of new money for general practice is conditional on practices being prepared to work at scale.   
  
14:42pm, 30 July 2019  
[How better care fund will work in 2019/20](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/how-better-care-fund-will-work-in-2019-20)  
The better care fund will provide financial support for councils and NHS organisations to jointly plan and deliver local services.   
  
14:03pm, 30 July 2019  
[PHE updates prevention resources](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/phe-updates-prevention-resources)  
Public Health England has made minor updates to the 2015 collection of documents called All Our Health.   
  
14:02pm, 30 July 2019  
[Proposed changes to NDTMS](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/proposed-changes-to-ndtms)  
The national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS) collects activity data from alcohol and drug treatment services in England.   
  
13:58pm, 30 July 2019  
[Evaluation of employment advisers in IAPT pilot scheme](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/evaluation-of-employment-advisers-in-iapt-pilot-scheme)  
This research looks at stakeholder views of the employment advisers in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies pilot, which began in March 2018.  
  
13:50pm, 30 July 2019  
[Treatment for gynaecological cancers approved for cancer drugs fund](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/treatment-for-gynaecological-cancers-approved-for-cancer-drugs-fund)  
Olaparib, a medicine that has previously been used at a later stage in the treatment of advanced ovarian cancer, has now been approved by NICE as a first-line maintenance treatment.   
  
13:43pm, 29 July 2019  
[Podcast: Do PCNs really need federations?](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/podcast-do-pcns-really-need-federations)  
You will search in vain for a mention of GP federations in the guidance for primary care networks. Yet the problem federations were set up to solve - to give practices the scale to get things done and the clout to influence local commissioners - hasn't gone away.   
  
13:41pm, 29 July 2019  
[Pharmacy payments scheme 2019/20](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/pharmacy-payments-scheme-2019-20)  
PSNC has released details of the pharmacy quality scheme (PQS), the new name for the quality payments scheme.   
  
13:40pm, 29 July 2019  
[Newborn screening for rare conditions](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/newborn-screening-for-rare-conditions)  
A report from the charity Genetic Alliance calls for better screening and more use of technology to improve the early identification of rare diseases.  
  
13:39pm, 29 July 2019  
[UK wide guidance for asthma pathway](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/uk-wide-guidance-for-asthma-pathway)  
NICE, the British Thoracic Society and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network have announced that future UK-wide guidance for the diagnosis and management of chronic asthma in adults, young people and children will be produced jointly by the three organisations.   
  
13:38pm, 29 July 2019  
[Involving patients and the public in research](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/involving-patients-and-the-public-in-research)  
The Health Foundation has published a report on the role of public and patient involvement in research.  
  
13:33pm, 29 July 2019  
[NICE says councils should do more to prevent smoking](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nice-says-councils-should-do-more-to-prevent-smoking)  
The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence estimates that every £1 invested in smoking cessation saves £10 in future health care costs