**NHS NETWORKS weekly news stories:**  
10:37am, 7 February 2020  
[Local leaders by design](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/local-leaders-by-design-5)  
Practice managers have always been “local leaders” by default, but primary care networks (PCNs) present a stiffer test of leadership ability requiring leaders by design.  
  
10:36am, 7 February 2020  
[BMA agrees new GP contract deal: 2020/21-2023/24](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/bma-agrees-new-gp-contract-deal-2020-21-2023-24)  
NHS England and the BMA have agreed significant revisions to the GP contract agreement 2020/21 to 2023/24.  
  
10:32am, 7 February 2020  
[GP contract agreement: 2020/21-2023/24: letter to commissioners](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/gp-contract-agreement-2020-21-2023-24-letter-to-commissioners)  
NHS England has written to directors of commissioning, regional heads of primary care and CCG clinical leads and accountable officers, with details about the update to the GP contract agreement 2020/21 to 2023/24.  
  
10:29am, 7 February 2020  
[QOF quality improvement case studies](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/qof-quality-improvement-case-studies)  
Three case studies illustrate different approaches to quality improvement in general practice.  
  
10:28am, 7 February 2020  
[Digital primary care maturity assurance dashboard](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/digital-primary-care-maturity-assurance-dashboard)  
A new dashboard contains data for CCGs and GP practices across 98 indicators, collected from 2015/16 to 2018/19.  
  
10:25am, 7 February 2020  
[Report signals ‘profound’ changes to commissioning](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/report-signals-2018profound2019-changes-to-commissioning)  
The shift in national policy towards promoting collaboration as a key tool for improving health services has profound implications for commissioning, according to a report from the King’s Fund.  
  
10:36am, 6 February 2020  
[Mergers: an inevitable consequence of working at scale?](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/mergers-an-inevitable-consequence-of-working-at-scale)  
STPs, also known as emerging integrated care systems, are taking an interest in primary care and how it responds to the need for working at scale.  
  
10:35am, 6 February 2020  
[Refractory epilepsy specialist clinical advisory service](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/refractory-epilepsy-specialist-clinical-advisory-service)  
This service specification covers the provision of a specialist clinical advisory service, supporting clinicians working with patients to optimise the treatment of refractory epilepsy.  
  
10:32am, 6 February 2020  
[Rebuilding our NHS: why it's time to invest](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/rebuilding-our-nhs-why-its-time-to-invest)  
The long-term plan for the NHS set out a vision for an NHS built around preventive and technologically enabled models of care.  
  
10:31am, 6 February 2020  
[Early and rapid diagnosis of lung cancer](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/early-and-rapid-diagnosis-of-lung-cancer)  
GPs can play a critical role in the early diagnosis of lung cancer, according to the UK Lung Cancer Coalition.  
  
10:30am, 6 February 2020  
[Evaluating digital health products](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/evaluating-digital-health-products)  
Public Health England has published advice to help organisations evaluate digital health products delivered through apps and websites.  
  
10:10am, 5 February 2020  
[The stress-resistant manager: building your resilience](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/the-stress-resistant-manager-building-your-resilience-6)  
Most of us will suffer work-related stress – and the problem is most acute for public sector staff, particularly those in the NHS. Many are faced with increasing complexity and rising workload, and report a poor work/life balance as they struggle to reconcile work priorities with home or family commitments.  
  
10:08am, 5 February 2020  
[Minimum allocations for the Better Care Fund from CCGs in 2020/21](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/minimum-allocations-for-the-better-care-fund-from-ccgs-in-2020-21)  
NHS England has published details of the minimum allocations for the Better Care Fund (BCF) from CCGs for 2020/21.  
  
10:05am, 5 February 2020  
[Use of data to improve care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/use-of-data-to-improve-care)  
NHS England has published examples of better use of data to improve services and health outcomes.  
  
10:03am, 5 February 2020  
[Alcohol involved in 360,000 hospital admissions last year](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/alcohol-involved-in-360-000-hospital-admissions-last-year)  
Drinking alcohol was the main reason for 358,000 admissions to hospital in 2018/19 according to new figures published by NHS Digital.  
  
10:01am, 5 February 2020  
[Wanted: ideas for a greener NHS](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/wanted-ideas-for-a-greener-nhs)  
NHS England has put out a call for ideas how the NHS can become greener as part of a new campaign to raise awareness of the dangers to health posed by climate change.  
  
09:58am, 5 February 2020  
[Local partnerships and children’s mental health](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/local-partnerships-and-children2019s-mental-health)  
A report published by the Local Government Association sets out how councils and their partners can work most effectively together to support children and young people’s mental health and emotional wellbeing.  
  
16:53pm, 4 February 2020  
[Introduction to project management](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/introduction-to-project-management-6)  
Project management requires a specific set of skills, some of which we possess naturally and can learn to use more effectively. But it also requires knowledge and a well-defined approach. This one day training session is for everyone who has responsibility for projects or is part of a project team.  
  
16:52pm, 4 February 2020  
[NHS operational planning and contracting guidance 2020/21 – technical and supporting guidance](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-operational-planning-and-contracting-guidance-2020-21-2013-technical-and-supporting-guidance)  
This document sets out details of the key technical elements of the operational planning process covering CCG mergers, narrative plans, submission process overview, Better Care Fund planning requirements as well as key contacts, resources and timetable.  
  
16:50pm, 4 February 2020  
[Multiple sclerosis: prevalence, incidence and smoking status](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/multiple-sclerosis-prevalence-incidence-and-smoking-status)  
Public Health England has published analysis of primary care records relating to diagnosed cases of multiple sclerosis in England.  
  
16:46pm, 4 February 2020  
[NICE recruits to adoption and impact reference panel](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nice-recruits-to-adoption-and-impact-reference-panel)  
NICE is seeking members for a panel to provide independent, impartial view and expert advice on tools and resources that support their guidance.  
  
16:45pm, 4 February 2020  
[Consultation on requirements for patient safety specialists](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/consultation-on-requirements-for-patient-safety-specialists)  
NHS England will soon ask providers to identify patient safety specialists to oversee and support patient safety activities across their organisation as stated in the NHS Patient Safety Strategy.  
  
16:42pm, 4 February 2020  
[Latest issue of NHS Prescription Services newsletter for dispensing contractors](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/latest-issue-of-nhs-prescription-services-newsletter-for-dispensing-contractors)  
The latest issue of NHS Prescription Services’ quarterly newsletter for dispensing contractors is out now.  
  
10:12am, 3 February 2020  
[Introduction to HR for primary care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/introduction-to-hr-for-primary-care-1)  
This full-day course on 28 April in Manchester, 14 May in London and 24 June in Birmingham is suitable for anyone who is responsible for managing staff or those aspiring to a first line management position within the ever-changing primary care landscape.  
  
10:09am, 3 February 2020  
[Calls for better use of occupational therapists to reduce burden of sick leave](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/calls-for-better-use-of-occupational-therapists-to-reduce-burden-of-sick-leave)  
NHS workers take on average 14 days sick leave every year, well above the national average. Stress and depression are cited as the main reasons why and a lack of staff can cause major issues for frontline services.  
  
10:07am, 3 February 2020  
[£20m for coronavirus and other infectious diseases](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/ps20m-for-coronavirus-and-other-infectious-diseases)  
The government has pledged £20m to develop new vaccines to combat the world’s deadliest diseases, amid concerns over the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak in China.  
  
10:05am, 3 February 2020  
[Improving MMR uptake – GP practice campaign](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/improving-mmr-uptake-2013-gp-practice-campaign)  
NHS England has developed posters and other materials for GP practices to encourage people to be vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR).  
  
10:03am, 3 February 2020  
[Nurses are undervalued because most are women says RCN](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nurses-are-undervalued-because-most-are-women-says-rcn)  
Society continues to regard nursing as “women’s work” which is why nurses continue to be underpaid and undervalued, according to a report from the Royal College of Nursing.  
  
10:01am, 3 February 2020  
[More than 2 million women screened for breast cancer last year](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/more-than-2-million-women-screened-for-breast-cancer-last-year)  
More than 2 million women aged 45 and over were screened for breast cancer in 2018/19.