**NHS NETWORKS weekly news stories:**  
10:06am, 1 May 2020  
[COVID-19 impact assessment and action planning support](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-impact-assessment-and-action-planning-support)  
During the COVID -19 crisis, all practices and PCNs will have implemented or experienced a number of changes covering operational, strategic and attitudinal aspects of practice life.  
  
10:04am, 1 May 2020  
[Enable GP Connect to help during COVID-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/enable-gp-connect-to-help-during-covid-19)  
GP Connect has been introduced for all practices. This enables the secure sharing of patient records across primary care, NHS 111 and other care settings where access is required for patients’ direct care during the pandemic.  
  
10:00am, 1 May 2020  
[NHS-funded nursing care rate announced for 2020 to 2021](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-funded-nursing-care-rate-announced-for-2020-to-2021)  
The NHS-funded nursing care standard weekly rate per person for 2019 to 2020 will increase and be backdated to 1 April 2019.  
  
09:58am, 1 May 2020  
[NICE joins international collaboratives to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nice-joins-international-collaboratives-to-respond-to-the-covid-19-pandemic)  
NICE is supporting a growing number of international collaborations to share knowledge and identify treatments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
  
09:56am, 1 May 2020  
[RCGP e-learning resource](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/rcgp-e-learning-resource)  
RCGP has produced an e-learning resource about shielding vulnerable patients from COVID-19.  
  
10:48am, 30 April 2020  
[PCC e-learning](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/pcc-e-learning)  
PCC e-learning courses allow you to learn in your own time without having to leave your desk or office.  
  
10:45am, 30 April 2020  
[Home testing programme for coronavirus](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/home-testing-programme-for-coronavirus)  
100,000 people will be sent self-testing kits to determine if they are currently infected.  
  
10:43am, 30 April 2020  
[COVID-19 treatments could be fast-tracked through new national clinical trial initiative](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-treatments-could-be-fast-tracked-through-new-national-clinical-trial-initiative)  
Thousands of patients could benefit from potential treatments for COVID-19 that will be fast-tracked through a new national clinical trial, the Health and Care Secretary has announced.  
  
10:37am, 30 April 2020  
[Government launches plan to tackle loneliness during coronavirus lockdown](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/government-launches-plan-to-tackle-loneliness-during-coronavirus-lockdown)  
The Government has launched a major effort to tackle loneliness and social isolation during the COVID-19 outbreak and period of social distancing.  
  
10:35am, 30 April 2020  
[Personal protective equipment (PPE): resource for care workers delivering home care (domiciliary care)](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-resource-for-care-workers-delivering-home-care-domiciliary-care)  
This resource is primarily for care workers and providers delivering care in the following settings: visiting home care, extra care housing and live-in home care.  
  
14:16pm, 29 April 2020  
[NHS response to COVID-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-response-to-covid-19)  
Simon Stevens, NHS chief executive and Amanda Pritchard, NHS chief operating Officer have published a letter outlining the second phase of NHS response to COVID-19.  
  
12:42pm, 29 April 2020  
[Online consultation service available via the NHS App](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/online-consultation-service-available-via-the-nhs-app)  
Online consultation is now available within the NHS App at around a quarter of GP practices with the integration of the eConsult service.  
  
12:41pm, 29 April 2020  
[Calling all healthcare workers: Get involved in PanSurg’s Staff and Safety Effects of Epidemics (SSAFE) project](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/calling-all-healthcare-workers-get-involved-in-pansurg2019s-staff-and-safety-effects-of-epidemics-ssafe-project)  
PanSurg is a global hub for surgeons and related professionals to share experiences, policy, data and research for the delivery of safe, effective surgery during the pandemic based at Imperial College London.  
  
12:39pm, 29 April 2020  
[Total triage and remote consultations](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/total-triage-and-remote-consultations)  
Progress continues to be made in general practice in moving towards a total triage approach using online consultations, and video consultations to support the remote management of patients.  
  
12:38pm, 29 April 2020  
[Managing Conflict: Dealing with Angry and Abusive Patients](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/managing-conflict-dealing-with-angry-and-abusive-patients)  
The Royal Pharmaceutical Society in collaboration with The Mental Wellness Academy and Pharmacy Support have produced guidance on dealing with angry and abusive patients.  
  
12:36pm, 29 April 2020  
[Domestic Abuse Campaign](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/domestic-abuse-campaign)  
The Home Office is running a domestic abuse campaign, raising awareness of the support and advice currently available.  
  
12:34pm, 29 April 2020  
[Coronavirus (Covid-19): guidance for care staff supporting adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-care-staff-supporting-adults-with-learning-disabilities-and-autistic-adults)  
This guidance is for care workers and personal assistants who support adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults.  
  
12:29pm, 29 April 2020  
[Further expansion of access to coronavirus testing helps protect the most vulnerable](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/further-expansion-of-access-to-coronavirus-testing-helps-protect-the-most-vulnerable)  
Anyone in England with symptoms of coronavirus who has to leave home to go to work, and all symptomatic members of the public aged 65 and over, will now be able to get tested.  
  
11:20am, 28 April 2020  
[Coping during a crisis and collaborating across systems requires a different approach to team working](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/coping-during-a-crisis-and-collaborating-across-systems-requires-a-different-approach-to-team-working)  
Consider teaming as an option when you’re working across geographical and organisational boundaries.  
  
11:19am, 28 April 2020  
[Jump in NHS job applications as public back coronavirus battle](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/jump-in-nhs-job-applications-as-public-back-coronavirus-battle)  
Applications to work in the NHS have jumped as the nation has backed nurses, doctors and countless other health workers battling coronavirus with the weekly clap for carers.  
  
11:17am, 28 April 2020  
[Accessing medicines for detainees released during COVID-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/accessing-medicines-for-detainees-released-during-covid-19)  
This guide is to support probation and youth offending teams and other teams supporting people released from custody on accessing medicines and pharmacy services during the COVID-19 outbreak.  
  
11:16am, 28 April 2020  
[New guarantee on death in service benefits for frontline health and care staff during pandemic](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/new-guarantee-on-death-in-service-benefits-for-frontline-health-and-care-staff-during-pandemic)  
The families of health and care workers on the frontline in England will benefit from a new life assurance scheme during the pandemic, developed after discussions with health and social care unions.  
  
11:14am, 28 April 2020  
[COVID-19 population management strategy for prisons](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/covid-19-population-management-strategy-for-prisons)  
This paper assesses the impact of various population management strategies implemented in prisons in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
  
11:12am, 28 April 2020  
[Coronavirus (Covid-19) advice for social care](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-social-care)  
These resources from the Social Care Institute for Excellence contains advice for councils and care providers during this period of sustained transmission of Covid-19.  
  
10:23am, 27 April 2020  
[NHS Volunteer Responders](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-volunteer-responders)  
The NHS Volunteer Responders scheme is a tool for all health and care professionals to use to help match volunteers with individual tasks to support people who are at very high risk from coronavirus or who need additional support as a result of the impact of COVID-19 where limited local support is available, for example if they have been asked to self-isolate and ‘shield’, if they are over 70 and have underlying health conditions, or if they are self-isolating and you consider them to be especially vulnerable.  
  
10:21am, 27 April 2020  
[NHS urges public to get care when they need it](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/nhs-urges-public-to-get-care-when-they-need-it)  
The head of the NHS has launched a major new drive to persuade the public to seek the urgent care and treatment they need.  
  
10:14am, 27 April 2020  
[Mobile coronavirus testing units to target frontline workers](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/mobile-coronavirus-testing-units-to-target-frontline-workers)  
Essential workers and the most vulnerable will receive increased access to coronavirus tests after the government unveiled a network of mobile testing units to travel where there is significant demand, including care homes, police stations and prisons.  
  
10:12am, 27 April 2020  
[Better information sharing for doctors and nurses to help patients during COVID-19](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/better-information-sharing-for-doctors-and-nurses-to-help-patients-during-covid-19)  
To help the NHS to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSX and NHS Digital are improving the access that doctors, nurses and other authorised health and care professionals have to medical records and information, so that they can more safely treat and advise patients who are not attending their usual GP practice or who have called NHS 111 or who are attending hospital or other healthcare settings to receive direct care.  
  
10:10am, 27 April 2020  
[Increase electronic repeat dispensing during pandemic](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/increase-electronic-repeat-dispensing-during-pandemic)  
The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) has launched a support service to help GP practices increase electronic repeat dispensing (eRD).  
  
10:08am, 27 April 2020  
[Coronavirus (Covid-19): top tips in bereavement care and support in specialist housing](http://www.networks.nhs.uk/networks/news/coronavirus-covid-19-top-tips-in-bereavement-care-and-support-in-specialist-housing)  
This briefing sets out a number of top tips for the housing sector, in particular operators of specialist housing – such as extra care or retirement housing – or general needs housing, on bereavement and care after death.