

The weekly newsletter from NHS Networks

## Top stories

### [Running good meetings more important than ever](#)

Facilitation skills are an asset to any organisation - and they will be in high demand as PCNs find their feet. Clinical directors, practice managers and network managers will all need to know how to run a successful meeting, negotiate and develop relationships. This workshop will help them develop the confidence and learn some of the basic techniques of the capable facilitator.

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### [NHS to fund revolutionary treatment for blindness in children](#)

A revolutionary new gene therapy which restores sight will be provided by the NHS. Babies born with inherited retinal dystrophies disorder have poor sight which swiftly deteriorates, with most losing their vision completely in childhood.

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### [NHS 'passports' to help staff work flexibly and cut admin costs](#)

The NHS is making it easier for staff to move between organisations to take on new roles and plug gaps in staffing with minimal bureaucracy.

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### [GP IT specification commissioning support pack](#)

NHS England has published details of operating arrangements for the delivery of GP IT services across England until 2021.

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### [Helping doctors and nurses improve care for people with a learning disability](#)

NHS Digital is introducing a flag on patient records that will let doctors, nurses and other health and care staff know that a patient has a learning disability and enable them to make the "reasonable adjustments" they are obliged to make for care of such people.

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### [Local leaders by design](#)

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. They will need to become better at enabling relationships, facilitating meetings, developing network plans, keeping people engaged, staying up to date and managing change.

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### [Revised guidance for the friends and family test](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement has published revised guidance to improve the friends and family test.

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### [High street heart checks on the NHS](#)

Pharmacists are set to offer rapid detection and help for killer conditions like heart disease as part of a major revamp of high street pharmacy services.

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### [Dealing with difficult people and situations – courageous conversations](#)

This workshop looks at workplace challenges and fears, what causes stress in these difficult situations, and how to cope with them.

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### [NHS cuts medicines costs by three quarters of a billion pounds](#)

The NHS has saved more than £700 million from the annual medicines bill.

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### [Improving access to information in maternity services](#)

In autumn an information standards notice (ISN) will be published to announce the new Maternity Record Standard under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

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