

Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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 Forward

New patient resources to combat antibiotic resistance



New on our website are resources that have been co-developed in partnership with patients, carers, healthcare professionals, and Pfizer Ltd. to help patients partner with their medical team when deciding about using

antibiotics. Pfizer funded and supported the project.

Developed primarily for patients who are in hospital, they may also be helpful whenever you are considering taking antibiotics.

The Patients Association and Pfizer have been working together on how patients can be more involved in preventing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for some time. AMR happens when treatments, such as antibiotics, stop working because the bug causing the infection develops a resistance to the treatment.

The resources include a leaflet for patients and carers that describes antibiotics, when antibiotics should and shouldn't be used, and how to partner with your healthcare professional to make sure that antibiotics are not overused.

The animated video offers information about things to consider about antibiotics if you have an infection.

[Read the leaflet and watch the video on our website](#)

Lessons learned in 10 years as Chair of a PPG



Member Allan Bellinger has been Chair of his GP practice's patient participation group for a decade. In a blog on our website, Alan describes what he's learned and what he thinks is essential for a PPG's success.

This includes being collaborative, having good governance, and working hard to get the practice's patients to take part in the PPG's work. If you're a member of a PPG or just establishing one, do read Alan's blog.

We're always interested in hearing about members' experiences. If you'd like to contribute to our website, do get in touch and let us know what you'd like to talk about - weeklynews@patients-association.org.uk.

[Read Alan's blog](#)

Patient experience survey - still open



Thank you to everyone who has completed our current survey of experience but we'd love to hear from even more of you. So, if you haven't got round to completing it yet, we'd really like it if you could do it before the survey closes.

It's really important that we understand what patients are experiencing when trying to get the healthcare you need to live healthy lives. Knowing what your experiences are helps us represent your concerns in our discussions with the NHS and Government.

The survey should take no longer than ten minutes to [complete online](#). If you find it easier, you can call our free helpline and one of our advisers will complete it for you: call 0800 345 7115 between 9:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday. You will be able to do this without having to give your name.

The survey will remain open until February 20th and we will publish the results in March.

Take the survey

Changes to how pharmaceutical companies are paid by the NHS



NHS England is considering changes to how it pays pharmaceutical companies for the medicines it buys for patients. It would like to hear from patients and is inviting two Patients Association members to join a patient workshop to discuss what changes should be made.

At the moment, there is a voluntary scheme between the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry about how the NHS pays for our medicines. It is known as VPAS.

The workshop will discuss what the objectives of a new voluntary scheme should be, how the NHS can balance the cost of medicines with the need to provide treatments for patients, and what the barriers are that patients

face in getting medicines they need.

The workshop will start with an explanation of how the current scheme works and participants will be able to ask questions.

It will take place at NHS England's office at Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, SE1 8UG on Thursday 23rd February, from 2 - 4:30pm. But if you aren't able to travel you will be able to join the workshop by phone.

If you're interested in taking part please get in touch using the email in the button below. To be fair to all people who'd like to take part, we will pick two names out of the virtual hat on Monday morning. If you're not yet a member, you can join us quickly and easily [online](#).

[Email us for your chance to join the workshop](#)

Be active to celebrate the NHS's 75th birthday

Vitality
partners
parkrun

NHS 75
1948 - 2023

parkrun for the NHS
marking the NHS's 75th anniversary

- Saturday 8 July
- Sunday 9 July (junior parkrun)

#NHS75parkrun #NHS75

Walk, jog, run or volunteer!

To mark the NHS's 75th anniversary, NHS England has teamed up with parkrun UK and the NHS in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to host [parkrun for the NHS](#) on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th July 2023.

The runs are an opportunity for parkruns and junior parkruns and their local communities to recognise the contribution the NHS makes to the health of the nation and celebrate all the staff and volunteers, past and present, of the NHS.

Thousands of people are expected to walk, jog, run and volunteer in NHS blue or fancy dress. For all the latest information on parkrun for the NHS, follow the link in the button below.

If you fancy a bigger challenge, there's still time to take part in the NHS's 1,000 miles challenge. Those taking part are encouraged to walk, run, swim or cycle (or a combination) a distance of 1,000 miles in the year. That's an average of 2.74 miles per day.

To learn more about #NHS1000miles, there's information on NHS England's [website](#).

[parkrun for the NHS](#)

From the helpline
Information about Scottish service PASS



Shona*contacted our free helpline because she didn't feel her GP was really listening to her and wanted to know how to get some advocacy support.

Shona lives in Dundee so our adviser told her about the [Patient Advice & Support Service](#) – PASS – which is an independent service providing information to patients so that they understand their rights and responsibilities as patients in Scotland.

PASS helps patients give feedback or comments, raise concerns, or make complaints about the treatment they have received from the NHS. It can also help patients prepare for a meeting to discuss a complaint or concern.

Shona also wanted to know how to access her medical records, and PASS can help with that too. Our adviser told Shona about the information on our website which explains how to see your [medical records](#). The adviser also told her about the information we have on [shared decision making](#), also on our website.

Shona was happy with the information shared.

* Name changed to protect privacy.

If you need information or guidance, our helpline is open between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays, call freephone 0800 3457115. Or you can email helpline@patients-association.org.uk.

We also have a [range of information](#) on our website from our very popular nutrition checklist right through to understanding your medicines

What our team is reading this week

The scandal that shook the NHS

Sickle cell digital discovery report: Designing better acute painful sickle cell care

HIV testing: Free DIY home kit offered in England

COVID-19: Last chance for adults under 50 to get booster

Latest NHS reforms will not succeed until Government fixes longstanding problems

About Us

Our purpose is to ensure that everybody can access and benefit from the health and care they need to live well, by ensuring that services are designed and delivered through equal partnership with patients.

Our strategic focus for 2021-25 is patient partnership in the design and delivery of health and care services.

We are a registered charity raising all our own funds. If you'd like to support our work for all patients and make a difference, please [donate or consider making a regular donation](#). Thank you.



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