

Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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The GMC wants your opinions on standards of care and behaviour



Good medical practice sets out the standards of care and professional behaviour expected of all doctors in the UK. You can help shape the future of these standards.

Visit gmc-uk.org.

[#GoodMedicalPractice](#)

The General Medical Council (GMC), which regulates doctors, is running a public consultation on an updated version of *Good medical practice*.

Good medical practice is the document that sets the standards of professional behaviour and patient care expected from all doctors in the UK. It emphasises a patient's right to be treated with dignity, respect and to be involved in decisions about their care.

Patients, members of the public and patient groups can share their views on the proposed changes by taking part in a [short survey](#). It takes around 15 minutes to complete and it's open until 20 July 2022. The questions cover a range of important topics, including communication and partnership working, maintaining trust and promoting fairness and inclusion.

It is the first update to Good medical practice since 2013 and the GMC want to hear a range of views, so they can make sure the guidance continues to reflect the issues that matter to patients. For more information about the consultation and why it's important to take part, please visit the GMC's [Good medical practice webpages](#).

[Respond to the consultation](#)

Take part in this year's Patient Safety Congress



The Patient Safety Congress is looking for patients to be part of this year's sessions. The congress takes place on the 15th and 16th of September in Manchester.

The organisers would like to hear from patients or patient representatives who are willing to share their insights and experiences in areas including:

- Women's health and safety
- Patient and family involvement and co-production
- Diversity and equality in the workforce and its impact on patient care
- The use of technology in patient care
- Patient deterioration
- Care home safety
- Medication errors
- Patient self-management using technology
- Human factors approaches
- Building trust after harm.

Your experiences and/or work should be aligned to the themes and topics in the congress programme. You will need to be able to share your experiences and offer constructive insights that are relevant to the event programme and beneficial to the people attending the congress, too.

If you'd like to be considered as a speaker, please contact Shayna Jadeja at Shayna.jadeja@wilmingtonthehealthcare.com

Please note that the organisers of the Patient Safety Congress will contact you if they want to pursue your submission for the programme.

[View the programme](#)

Share your experience of diagnosis of gastro or muscle, bone and joint problems



Researchers are looking for patients with recent experience of musculoskeletal or gastroenterology diagnosis or treatment, to take part in one-hour online interviews.

The researchers are particularly interested in the information and support patients receive during the process of gaining a diagnosis, and whether pre-recorded videos may be helpful.

Musculoskeletal problems are conditions that can affect your muscles, bones, and joints. They include conditions such as osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, and some autoimmune conditions like rheumatoid arthritis. Gastroenterology covers many different conditions including things such as coeliac disease, constipation, and gall stones.

The interviews will be with an independent researcher who will ask questions to understand patients' experience and needs. People who take part in the interviews will receive a £50

Love2Shop gift voucher for their participation.

The interviews will take place between 16th - 19th May during the afternoon from 1pm to 6.30pm on Zoom, Microsoft Teams or Google Meet. The researchers would very much like to hear from refugees or people that might not have a good understanding of the healthcare system and people with learning difficulties.

The research is being carried out by an independent company on behalf of NHS England. All information collected will be anonymised and treated as confidential. You can see more details about the [consent form for the session here](#).

Follow the link below to express your interest. If this project isn't for you, but you know someone who fits the researchers' criteria, why not share Weekly News with them?

[Express your interest in the research](#)

Support Dying Matter's campaign #InAGoodPlace



Maureen Anderson, a Dying Matters campaigner

Today is the last day of Dying Matters Awareness Week. This year's theme has been about being in a good place when we die – physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually, and crucially, with the right care and support in place.

But Hospice UK, the charity behind the awareness week, say too many people are dying without the right care and support in place. That's why the charity is calling for a public inquiry to examine the rise in deaths at home and for Government action to ensure everyone dying at home receives the care they need.

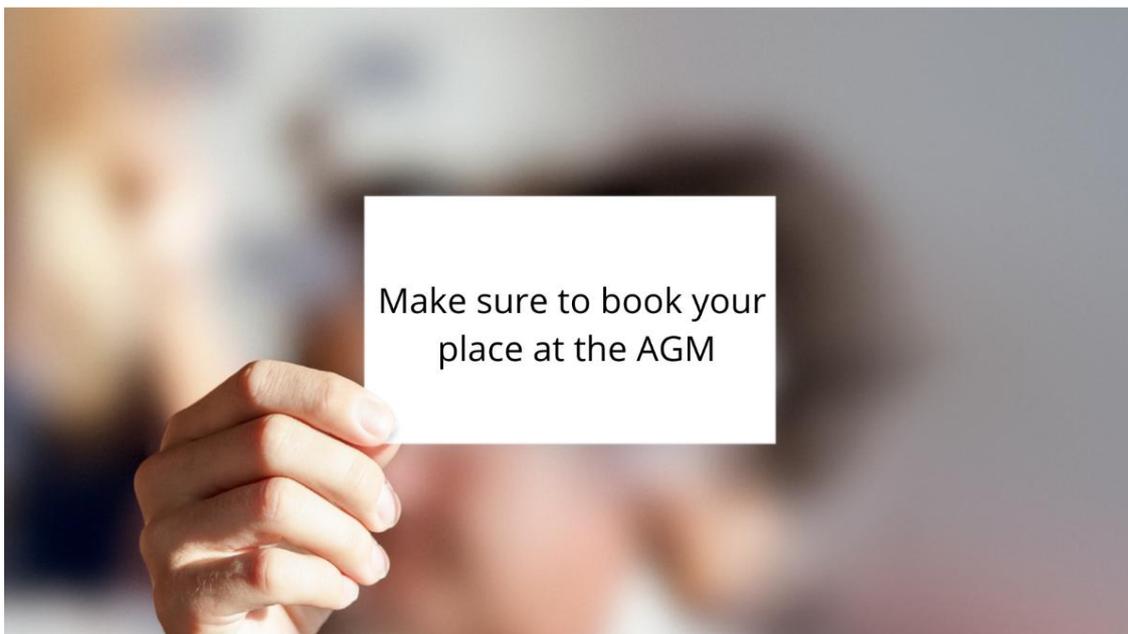
Maureen Anderson, a Dying Matters campaigner, cared for her parents who both died at home, within weeks of each other, during the first wave of the pandemic. Her parents received inconsistent and often poor community care from the health and care services who were meant to support them.

Hospice UK believe Maureen's parents are just two of almost 67,000 people have died at home since March 2020 without the right end of life care in place.

You can support the campaign by writing to your MP and inviting them to attend Hospice UK's Parliamentary drop-in event on 6 July to meet Maureen, hear her story and show their support for the campaign.

[Support the campaign](#)

Got your invitation to the AGM?



All members should have received their invitation to attend the AGM on 26th May either by post or email by now.

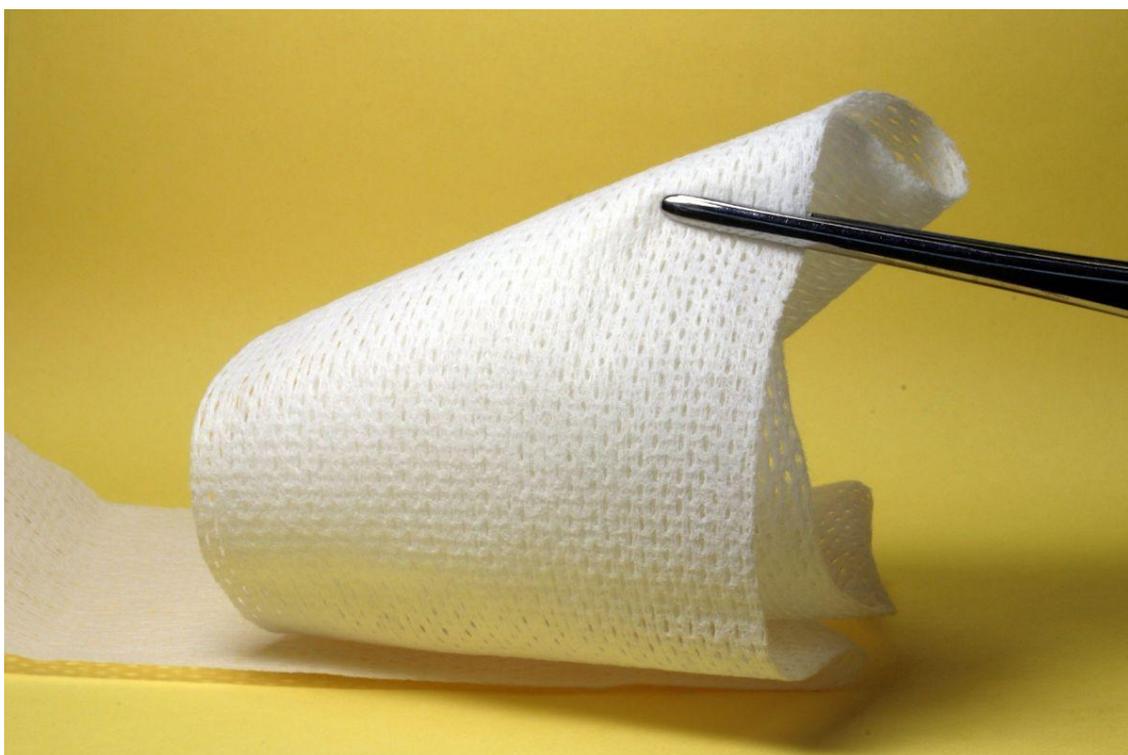
Along with your invitation to book your place on our virtual AGM, you should have received either a voting form or a link to vote online on this year's resolutions or to appoint a proxy to vote

on your behalf. We are asking all members to vote in advance of the meeting: there will be no voting during the AGM, so please be sure to use your vote before 20th May.

If you are a member and haven't received your invitation and voting form, please get in touch.

[Contact us about the AGM](#)

Fears for wound care

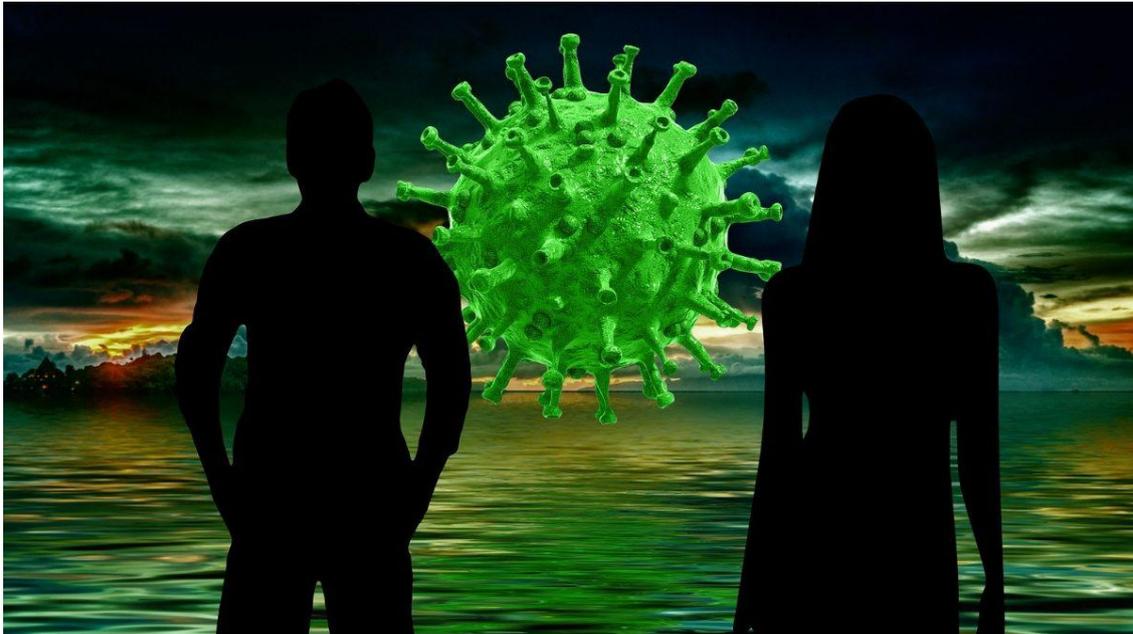


Around 28% of patients are managing their own wounds due to the pandemic, according to our latest report, [Making wound care work: Rebuilding services for the 3.8 million people living with a wound in the UK](#), published this week jointly with the company Mölnlycke.

The report is based on a survey and interview with patients, and a survey of wound care nurses. The majority (88%) of nurses fear that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on wound care services. Eight out of ten are worried about the delays it has caused to appointments, and the knock-on effect of delays to patient outcomes.

[Read the report](#)

COVID-19 information all in one place



Over the last two years we have surveyed patients, challenged the NHS and provided information about COVID-19 vaccines, apps and how to cope with self isolation, and made all this work available on our website.

That's a lot of information. To make it easier to find, we've created a COVID-19 page where you can find all our reports, press statements and information. Do check it out and tell us what you think.

[Visit our COVID-19 page](#)

From the helpline
Patient transport a let down



Rodney* is doubly incontinent and attending an outpatient appointment to see a specialist about his problems has proved anything but easy.

When Rodney's GP referred him to the specialist, both Rodney and his GP made it clear that Rodney would need hospital transport to be able to attend outpatients.

But on the day of the appointment, the hospital transport didn't arrive, the hospital cancelled the appointment and discharged him back to the GP. This is when Rodney called our free helpline. He told our adviser that he didn't want to start the process again, as he'd already been waiting a long time for the referral. Rodney needed support urgently.

Our adviser suggested Rodney raise his concerns with the hospital's Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) and gave him the contact details. She also recommended that Rodney contact his GP about getting a referral to a different hospital where he could be seen sooner, as well as advising he contact the local Clinical Commissioning Group about choosing a hospital outside of the area.

Rodney did all that and when we called back to see how he'd got on, he told our adviser that he'd received an appointment at the local hospital after contacting PALS. He told our adviser: "You are marvellous, I don't feel defeated when you are around. Thank you."

*Name changed to protect privacy.

To contact our helpline team, call 0800 3457115 between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays or email helpline@patients-association.org.uk. See [our website](#) for more ways to get in touch.

And remember, we 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

[Hospitals urged to use retired staff to cut backlog](#)

[Kate Middleton handed new duties to help women struggling with mental health](#)

[Face coverings retained in health and social care settings](#)

[The Health and Care Act 2022: the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead](#)

[Patient watchdog chair quits and tells Javid funding cuts are endangering 'its vital role' \(behind a paywall\)](#)

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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