

## Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News



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### Elective recovery plan and integration white paper launched



This has been a busy two weeks for policy announcements from the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England.

Between them they have:

- Announced the [My Planned Care](#) service, an online platform to provide information and support to patients waiting for elective surgeries
- Launched a 10-year national war on cancer with a [call for evidence](#), which we covered in last week's newsletter
- Launched [two separate reviews](#) to look at health disparities: one on ethnic inequalities associated with medical device; the other on tobacco control
- A [consultation](#) on the requirement for health and social care staff to be fully jabbed for COVID-19, which readers of Weekly News have until Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> to contribute to

- Launched the [integration white paper](#) aimed at ensuring “people receive the right care for them in the right place at the right time”
- And finally published the NHS England [Delivery plan for tackling the COVID-19 backlog of elective care](#).

Our Head of Policy, John Kell, takes in an in depth look at the NHS recovery plan and the integration white paper in blog on our website. Follow the link in the button below.

[Read the blog](#)

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## Share your experiences of A&E



How much do you know about the different NHS emergency services you can access if you need urgent medical help?

That's the question the London School of Economics is asking as part of a project on how to reduce avoidable attendances at A&E departments.

The team wants to understand how patients hear about their choices of emergency care. The results will help the researchers make recommendations to NHS England and NHS Improvement on how it may be possible to direct patients to the most appropriate services for their health needs. This could reduce pressure on A&E departments.

The team hopes patients will benefit from this research by improved communications from different parts of the NHS, as well as lower waiting times at A&E.

If you'd like to share your experiences of A&E, the link to the survey is in the button below.

[Take the survey](#)

## Help researchers study medicines for COVID-19



  
Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



**PANORAMIC**  
Platform Adaptive trial of Novel  
antivirals for early treatment of  
COVID-19 in the Community

**Have you received a *positive*  
test for COVID-19?**

**Do you *feel unwell* with  
symptoms that started in the  
*last five days*?**

**Are you over 50, or 18-49 with  
an underlying health  
condition?**

**+  
You**

Sign up now at [www.panoramictrial.org](http://www.panoramictrial.org)

The poster is a dark blue rectangle with a large light blue circle on the left side. The text is white and yellow. At the top right, there is a logo for PANORAMIC. At the bottom right, there is a yellow pill-shaped graphic with a plus sign and the word 'You'. The University of Oxford logo is also present.

Researchers are recruiting 10,000 people at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 for a world-first trial, run by the University of Oxford. The study will help doctors understand more about antiviral medications.

Antivirals are oral medicines that help to treat people with COVID-19 to reduce the risk of hospitalisations and death.

To be eligible to take part, you must have received a positive test for COVID-19 and feel unwell with symptoms that started in the last five days, as well as being over 50, or 18-49 with an underlying medical condition.

This is a simple home-based trial – the antivirals are taken orally for five days and delivered to your door.

Participants just have to keep a diary of their symptoms and speak on the phone to the research team a few times about these symptoms.

The study has been approved by the UK Medicines and Health Care Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which regulates the use of all medicines in the UK, and is also approved by the Health Research Authority.

[Find out more about PANORAMIC](#)

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## Share your ideas on how patient data are used



The NHS Confederation European Office is seeking patients' views on the best use of health data, and the conditions people think their health data should be reused under.

This is as part of a consultation being undertaken by [Towards a European Health Data Space](#) (TEHDAS), which is funded by the European Commission and 25 European countries. It has been set up to address common health issues and challenges.

The consultation is trying to find out if patients want their health data shared across European countries to help researchers develop better treatments and management of health conditions. You can share your ideas and read those of other people on the consultation's website - just follow the link below.

[Respond to the consultation](#)

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## From the helpline

### Change of password prevents mum getting update on daughter's condition



Peggy\* called our helpline to get advice on how to get information about her daughter Lisa\*, currently a patient in a hospital in the North East of England.

When Lisa had been admitted, Peggy got a password she was to give when she called to get updates on her daughter's condition. But Peggy's ex-husband, Lisa's dad, had changed the password and now she couldn't get any information about her daughter's progress.

Peggy has spoken to Lisa, who has capacity and is happy for staff to tell her mum the new password, however, when Peggy called the hospital, a nurse told her it wasn't her job to do that.

Our advisor said as Lisa had capacity, Peggy should contact the Patient Advisory Liaison Service to ask for its help in getting the password, and gave her the contact details.

As always, our adviser let Peggy know that she could always call us again if she needed additional advice or information.

\*Names 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](mailto: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.

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## What our team is reading this week

[Persistent throat symptoms should not be treated with pills that reduce stomach acid](#)

[Health expert warns axing COVID self-isolation rules in Scotland 'very unwise'](#)

[Welsh business owners 'experiencing highest levels of mental health issues in UK'](#)

[NI health trusts short of almost 300 permanent consultants, according to BMA vacancy report](#)

[Dementia strategy welcomed but extra Government investment not enough](#)

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### 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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