

## Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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**Have your say on how the NHS should work in partnership with  
patients**



We urge all our readers to respond to NHS England's consultation on how the NHS should work in partnership with patients and communities.

The online survey has 10 questions, which should take about 15 minutes to complete. The deadline is 30th May. There is an Easy Read version available.

Follow the link for background information and a link to the questionnaire.

[Respond to the consultation](#)

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## Grab a coffee and get involved in clinical research



The medical technology group at the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is inviting readers of Weekly News to join its Public Research Involvement Forums.

The forums are open to patients, carers, members of the public and anyone else interested in understanding how public contributions to research are used and how individuals can get involved.

The forums are virtual coffee/tea sessions, and each one is hosted by a member of the public who is currently involved in research. They will be held monthly. Each month will focus on a specific topic and you will be invited to share your experiences, concerns or ask any questions relating to the topic.

In addition to raising awareness and understanding of how the public can contribute to the

development of medical devices, the NIHR wants to ensure medical device developers make technology that is inclusive and sustainable. The NIHR says it can only achieve this by having a large group of patients and public contributors to support it.

The NIHR supports research taking place in the NHS, universities, local government, other research funders, patients and the public. It funds and enables health and social care research that improves people's health and wellbeing and promotes economic growth.

It is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care.

For more information on the forums and to register to join, follow the link in the button.

[More information and registration details](#)

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## Help improve referrals to secondary care



There's still time to register your interest to join a patient panel for a series of online workshops that will discuss NHS England's plans to redesign and improve referrals to outpatient services.

Panellists will share their views on the referral process, including the role of specialist advice and guidance. Specialist advice and guidance involves a GP sharing a patient's clinical information with a specialist before, or instead of a referral, so that the GP can get advice about the patient's case.

A number of panel members will be invited to share more about their individual experiences for the purposes of developing anonymous patient case studies.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are funding this project.

Workshop dates are:

- 1.30pm - 4pm Thursday 30th June.
- 1.30pm - 4pm Thursday 21st July.
- 1.30pm - 4pm Thursday 28th July

**Please note you must be available for all three workshops if you'd like to join the panel.**

Participants will receive an £80 voucher for each workshop and case study interview.

To register your interest in taking part, please fill out the [expression of interest form](#). We encourage people from all sections of the community to participate. We are committed to having a diverse patient panel, and particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic, disabled, and LGBTQ volunteers.

[Register your interest](#)

## 10-year dementia plan launched



The Government has announced it will publish a 10-year plan later this year to tackle dementia, including preventing people from developing the disease.

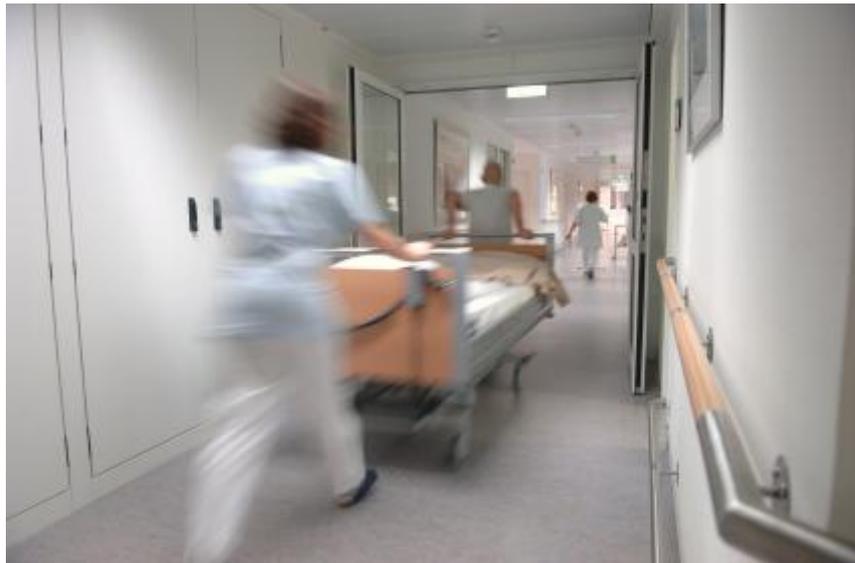
Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said the plan will focus on how new medicines and

emerging science and technology can be harnessed to improve outcomes for people living with dementia across the country.

Up to 40% of dementia is considered potentially preventable. The strategy will include actions to tackle high blood pressure, physical inactivity, alcohol and obesity, and to promote healthy eating, all of which have been implicated in the development of dementia.

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## Northern Ireland consults on urgent and emergency care



Less than a month remains to share your views on urgent and emergency care in Northern Ireland.

The Department of Health's consultation hopes to lead to an improvement of emergency care service, patients' experiences, accessibility of services, and make it easier for patients to access the most appropriate service as quickly as possible.

There are several ways to share your views, including an online webinar on 8th June.

For more details on the consultation, including information rural services, and how to contribute, follow the link in the button. There is an Easy Read version available, too.

[Respond to the consultation](#)

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**From the helpline**  
**Proof of COVID-19 vaccination**



Mick\* called the helpline to ask how to get a letter to prove he'd been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Anyone who has been vaccinated can get proof via the [NHS website](#) or by calling NHS 119, where one of the adviser will be able to help.

\*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](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

[What is monkeypox and should UK residents be worried?](#)

[Obese adults set to outnumber those at healthy weight in UK within five years, report warns](#)

[NHS is again turning to non-UK workers to plug large gaps in the nursing workforce](#)

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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](#). You can also raise funds for us at not cost to you by making us your charity of choice on [AmazonSmile](#). If you choose us, every time you buy something through the website, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price to us. Thank you.



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