

## Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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### Share your views on the spending review



The Chancellor of the Exchequer will publish a spending review this autumn. This will allocate funding to government departments for the coming period, most likely the next five years.

We want to know what concerns patients, and we have a new survey that asks about your views on spending on the NHS and adult social care in particular, plus some other areas of public spending.

The NHS and adult social care are devolved areas of policy, so the spending review will settle budgets in England only. The funding available to the governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be calculated in the review, but it will be up to them how they allocate the money. Questions about the NHS and social care in the survey only apply to England; readers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can skip these questions.

We will use what you tell us to develop our response to the spending review when it is published.

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[Take the survey](#)

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## Contribute to health plans in Northern Ireland



Photo of Belfast Titanic Quarter by K. Mitch Hodge from [unplash](#)

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland is consulting on a framework that would be the blueprint for a new Integrated Care System (ICS) model in Northern Ireland.

The model proposed is one in which local providers and communities plan, manage and deliver care for their local population based on a population health approach. Regional and specialised services would be planned, managed and delivered at a regional level.

More details on the proposals [are available online](#).

If you live in Northern Ireland you can respond online and also register to take part in workshops discussing the framework. But hurry, registration of interest for workshops closes next Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August and the consultation itself closes on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

[Respond to the consultation](#)

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**Join our Board of Trustees**



There's still time to apply to become a trustee of the Patients Association.

We're looking for people who share our vision of empowered patients able to access the health and care services they need to live well.

For more information about the role, and to find out more, [visit the website](#).

Closing date for applications is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Interviews will be held in the week of 18<sup>th</sup> October, either by Zoom or in person.

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## Survey still open on NEPTS



Our survey into non-emergency patient transport services (NEPTS) is still open.

NHS England is consulting on NEPTS, which help people get to NHS appointments if they are not able to travel independently, or do not have anybody to help them make the journey. Your answers to our short survey telling us about your experiences will help us with our submission to the consultation.

[Take the survey](#)

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## From the helpline GP fails to follow consultant's advice



Margaret\* lives in the west of England and called our free helpline to ask for advice about her GP changing a prescription given to her by a consultant.

Margaret has glaucoma and her consultant prescribed preservative-free eye drops. The consultant wrote to her GP and advised him to continue the prescription.

The GP, however, prescribed eye drops with preservative, and Margaret had an adverse reaction. Despite this, the GP has been unwilling to prescribe the preservative-free drops.

Margaret got in touch with her consultant, who wrote to the GP again but the GP has refused to prescribe the medication the consultant has asked him to.

Our adviser recommended that Margaret contact her CCG to ask whether there was a budgetary restriction in

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place regarding the prescription for her medication, and gave her contact details. He also suggested she get in touch with NHS England for further advice.

Our adviser also asked if Margaret would like to give her feedback to the CQC, letting her know we can do this on her behalf under our [partnership](#) with the regulator.

\* Name changed for privacy.

To share your experiences with 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.

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## What our team is reading this week

[Quarter of care home staff oppose mandatory COVID vaccination - survey](#)

[A radical plan to treat COVID's mental health fallout](#)

[Supported housing system 'a living nightmare'](#)

[Regulatory Horizons Council report on medical devices regulation](#)

[Digital first during the COVID-19 pandemic: does ethnicity matter?](#)

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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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