

Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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CQC publishes damning report on state of care in England



The state of health care and adult social care in England 2020/21



This year's State of Care report from the Care Quality Commission is grim reading. From the findings of unsafe care in adult social services and maternity units, to the acknowledgement that the workforce is now depleted and demoralised.

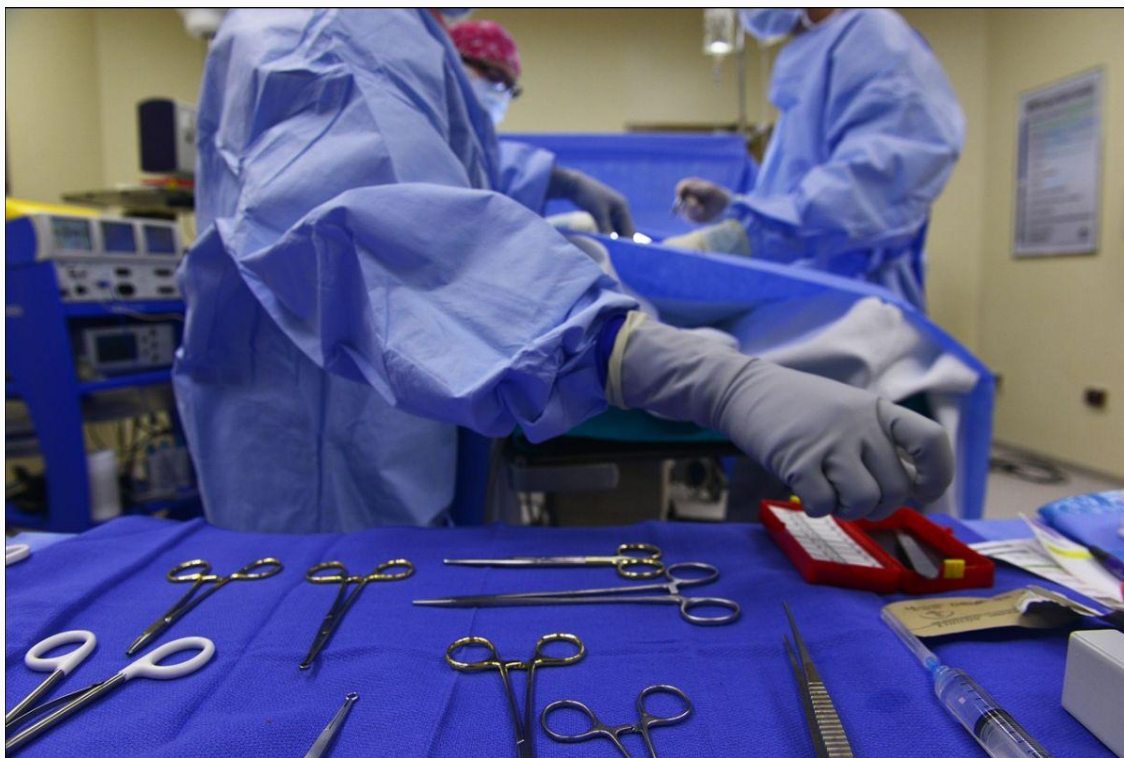
We support many of the report's suggestions, including the call for longer-term funding, as well as funding now to enable social care providers to plan services and recruit. But the NHS and the social care system are only part of the services that are essential to people's health and wellbeing. Housing, welfare benefits, and other services all impact people's health. Like the CQC, we would like to see a strategic cross governmental department approach that supports health and social care.

We are extremely concerned with the report's findings of poor care for adults in social care settings and that nearly two fifths of maternity care services need to improve safety. As the Patients Association, we expect patients to be kept safe under all circumstances, including in social care settings. We agree with the CQC when it says there's a need for wider improvements in culture, leadership and [patient partnership](#). Strong leadership is especially needed at this critical moment for health and social care.

We welcome the CQC's call for improved and widespread patient engagement and agree that new models of care are needed. Patient partnership is critical if we are to have services that deliver care where it's needed and when people need it. Embedding patient partnership should be standard in all models of care.

[Read the report](#)

Help improve emergency surgical care



The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) is looking for patients, or carers, who have experienced an emergency laparotomy, to help in its work to improve the quality of care patients undergoing

the procedure yet.

An emergency laparotomy is a major operation that involves opening the abdomen, which enables a surgeon to view the organs and repair any emergency problems that have occurred.

HQIP is working for NHS England to revise the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA), which collects data from hospitals that provide emergency laparotomy care. Hearing from patients and carers with experience of this operation will help HQIP improve the design of the renewed audit.

If you would like to feedback on this audit, please contact Kim Rezel on kim.rezel@hqip.org.uk who will send you a very short questionnaire.

Give your feedback on Weekly News

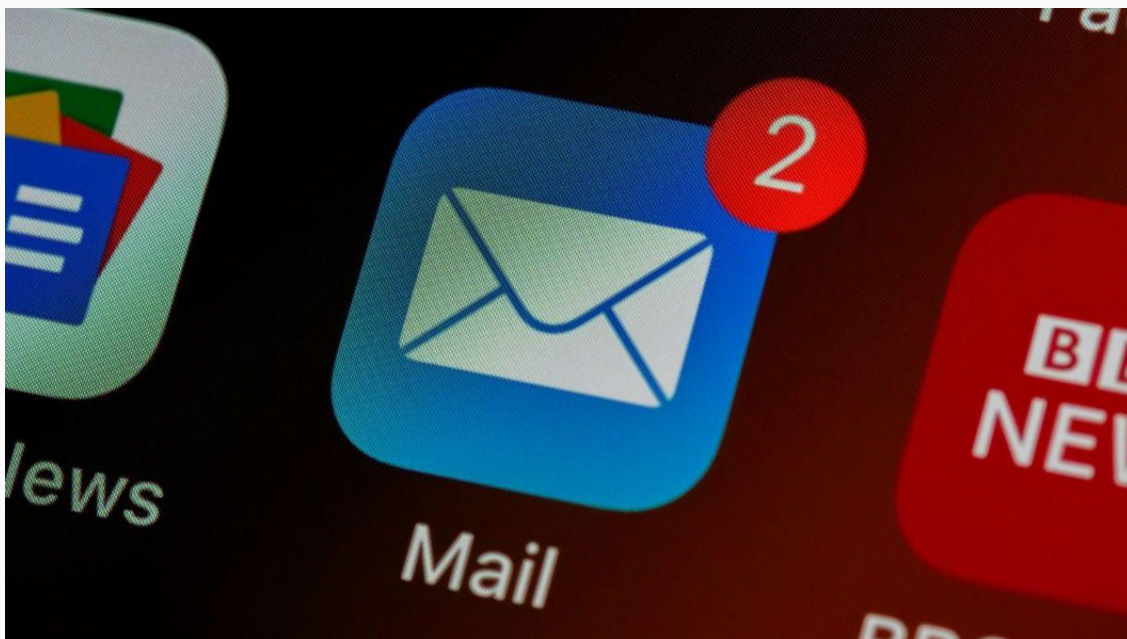


Photo by [Brett Jordan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Last chance to give us your opinions on Weekly News. The survey will close next Friday. We'd love to hear from more of you to be sure any changes we make reflect as many readers' views as possible.

[Take the survey](#)

UK Commission on Bereavement

UK Commission on Bereavement

A major independent commission exploring issues and recommendations on how to better support bereaved people.

LATEST: Watch [My Grief Story](#) on demand.



A [UK Bereavement Commission](#) has been established to explore how best to support the estimated three million people facing bereavement. You can contribute to its work if you have been bereaved in the last few years, not just during the pandemic.

The Commission is a partnership of a number of UK charities and researchers. It will make recommendations to better support bereaved people. It is looking at the following areas, among others:

- Key challenges affecting bereaved people
- Understanding what new challenges have emerged as a result of the pandemic
- Understanding how different social groups have been affected differently through the course of the pandemic
- Lessons that have been learned about the experience of bereavement during a mass bereavement event like Covid-19.

One way in which you can contribute is via a survey that asks questions about your experience of bereavement and what you would suggest to improve support. There is also a survey for professionals and organisations whose work is relevant to bereavement.

[Complete the survey](#)

COVID-19 vaccines for health and care staff



We have submitted our response to the Government's consultation on making vaccination a condition of deployment in the health and wider social care sector.

Our response is based on the premise that patients have a right to safe care, therefore, NHS staff, social care professionals and anyone else who works with patients should be vaccinated against COVID-19, in order to be able to care for patients safely.

But we recognise that staff members become patients when they receive a vaccine and from that perspective the requirement for decisions about treatment to be made jointly with patients applies equally to health and care workers who are asked to have the 'flu or COVID-19 vaccine.

[Read our response](#)

From the helpline



Josh* called our free helpline to get some advice on how to get home from hospital after an endoscopy.

He needed our advice because the hospital had told him he could only go home in a car driven by a trusted and known driver - no taxi, mini cab, or Uber. The hospital had instituted this rule to protect patients who might be vulnerable because of the after effects of the sedation administered for the procedure.

None of Josh's friends drive and because he'd been told he couldn't have the endoscopy unless his trip home had been arranged, he was stuck.

Our adviser recommended he contact the hospital's Patient Advice and Liaison Service, to ask if the non-emergency patient transport service could take him home after the endoscopy. Our adviser reasoned that Josh couldn't be the first patient who didn't have a friendly car driver to ferry them home after such a procedure.

Our adviser also asked Josh to call us back to let us know how he got on.

* Names 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. See [our website](#) for more ways to get in touch.

What our team is reading this week

[Minister says UK deaths 'very low', as booster jab interval of six months is 'sweet spot'](#)

[COVID: Why are UK cases so high?](#)

[COVID Scotland: Fears of 'disastrous' winter as two further health boards request help from the army](#)

[If we are going to understand integration, we need to learn from unpaid carers \(subscription needed\)](#)

[Tackling overprescribing](#)

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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Our mailing address is:

The Patients Association
PO BOX 935
London, England HA1 3YJ
United Kingdom