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| **Welcome to the Patients Association'sWeekly News** |

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| Share | [Share](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=a88c9445f5&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **A year of lockdown – reflections from Rachel** |

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| On the anniversary of the first lockdown, March 23rd, our Chief Executive Rachel Power reflected on the terrible loss of life and widespread disruption to patients' care, in a blog on our website. While lockdown was the right policy, Rachel notes that it came with significant costs to us as a nation. It has brought consequences for mental and physical health amounting to a substantial burden across the population as a whole. She also considers the enormous task ahead of rebuilding the economy as well as health and social care.  |

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| [**Read the article**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=93080ffce7&e=b00dac9705) |

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| And a reminder – our follow-up pandemic experience survey is currently live, and asks about your experiences throughout the last 12 months. Please let us know what has happened to you and how you have found things during the pandemic. |

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| [**Take the survey**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=7950010848&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **Contribute to our evidence for the Women’s Health Strategy** |

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| We will be responding to the Government’s call for evidence for its new Women’s Health Strategy. As part of our work, we want to hear testimony from women about their experiences with health and wellbeing, to inform our response.We are therefore running a short survey, and inviting women to tell us about their experiences. The questions look at some of the issues raised in the call for evidence, including ways in which women can be disadvantaged by the way health and care services are delivered. |

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| [**Take the survey**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=69dbe8239d&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **Opportunity to share your experience about nutrition and eating habits** |

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| Have you lost weight without trying or been worried about your nutrition while you were unwell? Nutricia, a pioneer of nutritional solutions, and the Patients Association have partnered to develop and promote resources for patients with disease related malnutrition to educate, support and empower them to effectively manage their nutritional care. We believe it is important to provide support for people like you who have been ill or live with a disease which effects eating or your nutrition. Please complete the short survey below so that we can learn from your experiences and better understand your concerns and how you would like to be supported. The survey will close on April 19th. The Patients Association will also be convening a focus group for this project. If you would like to be considered for the focus group, please indicate in the survey that you would like to be recontacted.  |

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| [**Take the survey**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=bbadefad22&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **Get involved: the experience of isolation for infection control in hospital** |

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| If you or a close family member have been cared for in isolation in a Scottish hospital, due to infection by antimicrobial resistant organisms, a new study would like to hear from you.Participation will involve a phone or video call, to be conducted at an agreed time.  The study is being carried out by Laura Fregonese as part of an educational course for the award of Postgraduate Doctoral Degree (PhD) at Glasgow Caledonian University. See below for full information on the study, and how to take part. |

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| [**Get involved**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=fad88814a5&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **NHS white paper: House of Commons inquiry** |

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| We have given evidence to the inquiry into the recent NHS white paper by the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee. While we support the proposals and expect that they will largely achieve their aim of integrating services, once again we see a failure to articulate a meaningful role for patients. If these reforms are to succeed, we argue that this needs omission needs to be rectified. We also express concern in our submission that legislation is happening quickly, without full policy development having taken place, and that NHS reforms are not being done in tandem with social care reforms, but instead any social care changes will follow later this year.Elsewhere in our submission we recommend strengthening existing duties for involvement on clinical commissioning groups, when they are mapped to the new Integrated Care systems.  |

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| [**Read more**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=7553dcb694&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **NICE publishes new quality standard on supporting adult carers** |

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| The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a new quality standard aimed at improving the wellbeing of adults who provide unpaid care for people over 16 years old. NICE’s supporting adult carers quality standard, has five statements aimed at commissioners, service providers, health, public health and social care practitioners and the public. It focuses on a number of priority areas, which include supporting carers to actively participate in decision making and care planning for the person they care for, and ensuring carers are offered supportive working arrangements by workplaces. |

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| [**Read more**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=7ec1144c3d&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **From the helpline** |

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| Our helpline provides specialist information, advice and signposting to help you make sense of the world of health and social care.Our trained advisers offer free and confidential advice, information and guidance and are happy to answer your questions. To share your experiences with our helpline team, call 0800 3457115 between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays or email helpline@patients-association.com. See [our website](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=65796d9a59&e=b00dac9705)for more ways to get in touch.  |

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| **What our team is reading this week** |

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| [**COVID: Health security body gives UK 'protective shield'**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=2e70cb76d9&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**Vaccinated people should be allowed to visit one another, says epidemiologist Professor Tim Spector**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=75847b57e3&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**Extra £95m in maternity care funding after damning report detailed unnecessary deaths of babies and mothers**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=4caed0d218&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**How COVID-19 has impacted mental health inequality – and how to get help**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=e7403bdee8&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**UK diplomacy masks private fury in COVID vaccine row with EU**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=8849cffba9&e=b00dac9705) |

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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](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=640ada658d&e=b00dac9705). Thank you.     |

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