

Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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 Forward

Share your views of access to the contraceptive pill



The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) wants patients' views on how people get contraceptive tablets and if it would be good to make getting them easier.

It is looking for people to take part in a meeting to discuss this who:

- Have taken any tablets for contraception
- Are willing to reflect personal experiences about obtaining contraceptive tablets from doctors, sexual health clinics, pharmacies, or other places
- Are happy and confident communicating with a diverse range of people
- Are willing to complete a confidentiality declaration form and a conflict of interest form if you are shortlisted for the meeting.

You do not have to have a medical, nursing or pharmacy qualification or background to take part.

The meeting is on Thursday 10th November 2022 at 10am. It will take place remotely on MS Teams and last for about 3 hours. There will be other members of the public, and healthcare professionals including pharmacists and nurses attending. Participants will be offered reimbursement for their attendance at the meeting.

If you're interested in attending, please complete the online form in the link below by Friday 30 September.

The MHRA will contact shortlisted participants by Friday 7th October at the latest. If you are invited to attend, you will be asked to fill out a conflict of interest and confidentiality declaration form. Due to the impartial nature of advice sought, conflicts of interests may prevent your participation.

The MHRA is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. This meeting is part of the MHRA's reclassification process. You can read more about the reclassification process and how stakeholders are involved [here](#).

If you have any questions about this opportunity or the process, please contact engagement@mhra.gov.uk.

[Register your interest](#)

Help prioritise research



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Earlier in the summer the [Incubator for Clinical Education Research](#) distributed a survey to gather opinions about priorities for clinical education research.

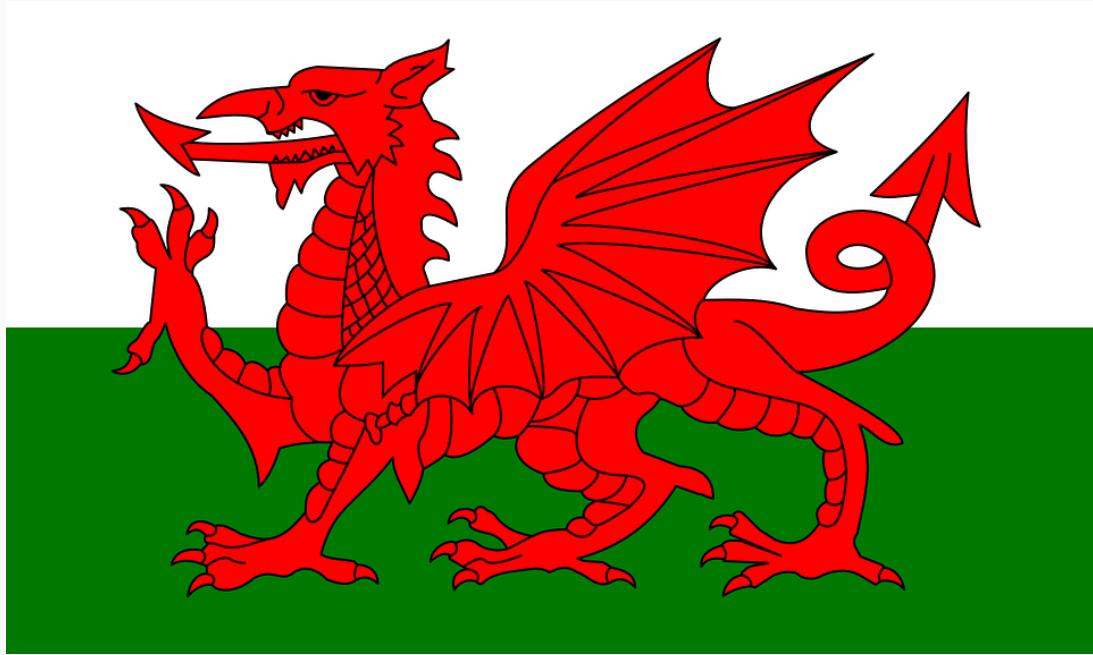
Now, it's asking members of the public to help it prioritise the 46 potential research topics that were developed from the 1,700 responses, according to how important you think each is as an area of research that should be funded.

Even if you didn't complete the first survey, the scientists behind this project would still like to hear from you.

It should only take a few seconds to rate each statement, and about 10 minutes to complete the survey.

[Take the survey](#)

Wales consults on HIV plan



The Welsh Government is consulting on an HIV Action Plan for Wales.

It wants to hear the views of people living with HIV and the wider public about the plan. The consultation has a number of questions for respondents to consider, but you can feedback in a format that's acceptable to you, including video clips or writing your thoughts in a language you feel comfortable using.

The consultation will run until 14th September. The Government aims to publish the final plan later in 2022.

For more information and how to respond, visit the link in the box below.

[Respond to the consultation](#)

The future of pharmacy in England



The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is inviting the public to respond to its consultation on how pharmacy services should change in England over the next decade.

There are several ways you can respond: a survey, face-to-face roadshows, and virtual events.

There are six themes the Society would like people to think about and give their opinions on:

- Supporting people and communities to live well for longer
- Enabling people to live well with the medicines they choose to take
- Enhancing patient experience and access
- Our pharmacy people
- Data, innovation, and research
- Collaboration and leadership.

To find out more, including how to take part in an event, visit the link in the box below.

[Learn more and respond to the consultation](#)

Have you received your copy?

patient voice

The membership magazine of the Patients Association

Summer 2022

We hope all Patients Association members have downloaded their copy of Patient Voice, but if you haven't yet, visit this [page](#) on our website to read your copy.

If you didn't receive Patient Voice via email and you want the winter edition sent to you automatically, please let us know and we'll update your membership record. Just email mailbox@patients-association.org.uk.

From the helpline Patient transport



Cathy*, who lives in the North West of England, rang our helpline to get advice on patient transport to a hospital appointment.

Cathy isn't very well, doesn't drive, wouldn't be able to get to the hospital using public transport, and doesn't have anyone to drive her to the

appointment.

Some patients are eligible for free patient transport services although this isn't available in all areas. To find out if you're eligible and how to organise it, patients need to speak to their GP or the healthcare professional who referred you to hospital.

Our adviser established that Cathy's GP would have to order patient transport for her, once it had been established that she was eligible for the service.

*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. 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.

What our team is reading this week

The continuing impact of COVID-19 on health and inequalities

Babylon disrupted the UK's health system. Then it left

Realising the benefits of provider collaboratives

'North-South health divide' is fuelled by COPD and alcohol problems: Research highlights impact of chronic disease on the North East

NHS 111 cyber-attack fiasco will harm patients, safety experts warn as chaos continues three weeks after crucial IT software was hacked

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](#). If you use Amazon, you can help raise funds by nominating us to receive funds via AmazonSmile - for more information on how to do this visit our [website](#). Thank you.



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