



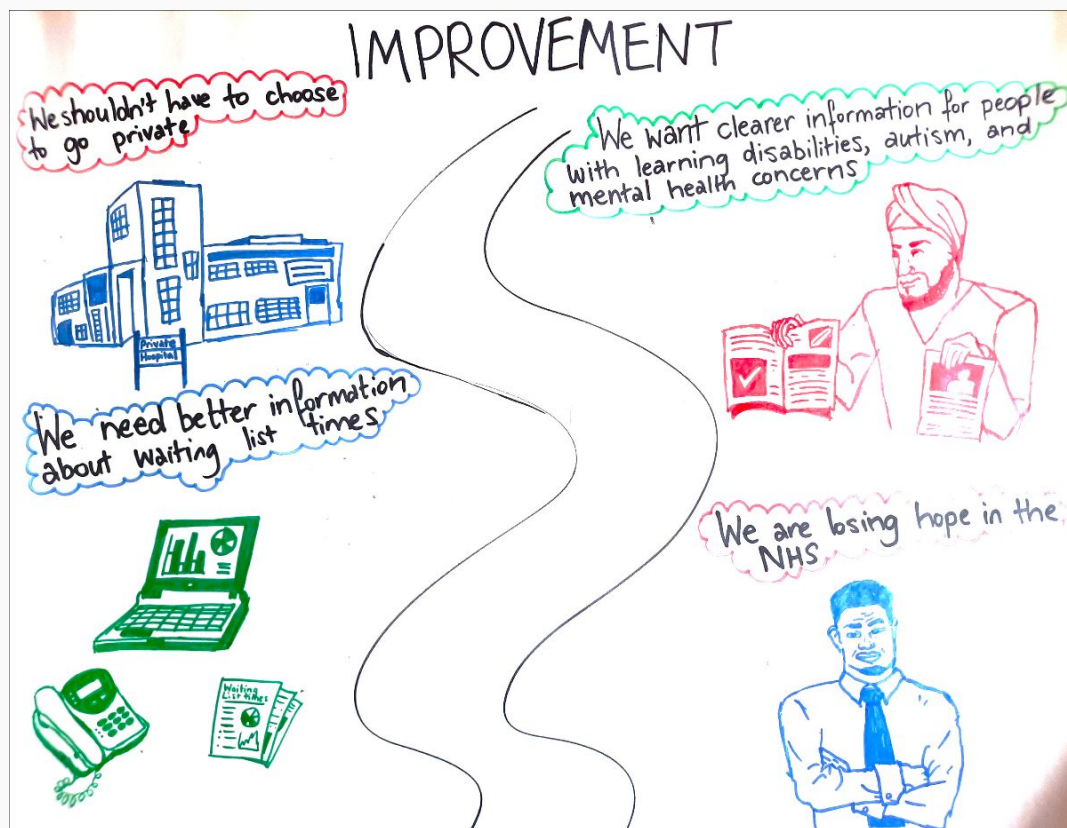
**Welcome to the Patients Association's
Weekly News**

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 Forward

Down with jargon!



Sarah Tilsed, Head of Patient Partnership, and Ray, a member of Patient Voices Matter, have blogged about jargon and their presentation last month to the NHS Health Inequalities Improvement Network.

They shared with the Network how inaccessible healthcare jargon can make health services to many users. So much so, that Patient Voices Matter has developed a Jargon Busting Dictionary, which is available on our site.

Read the blog on our website and check out the dictionary: what bit of jargon have we missed that you think we should add?

[Read the blog](#)

New on our website: social prescribing



We have just added information about social prescribing to our advice and information leaflets section on our website.

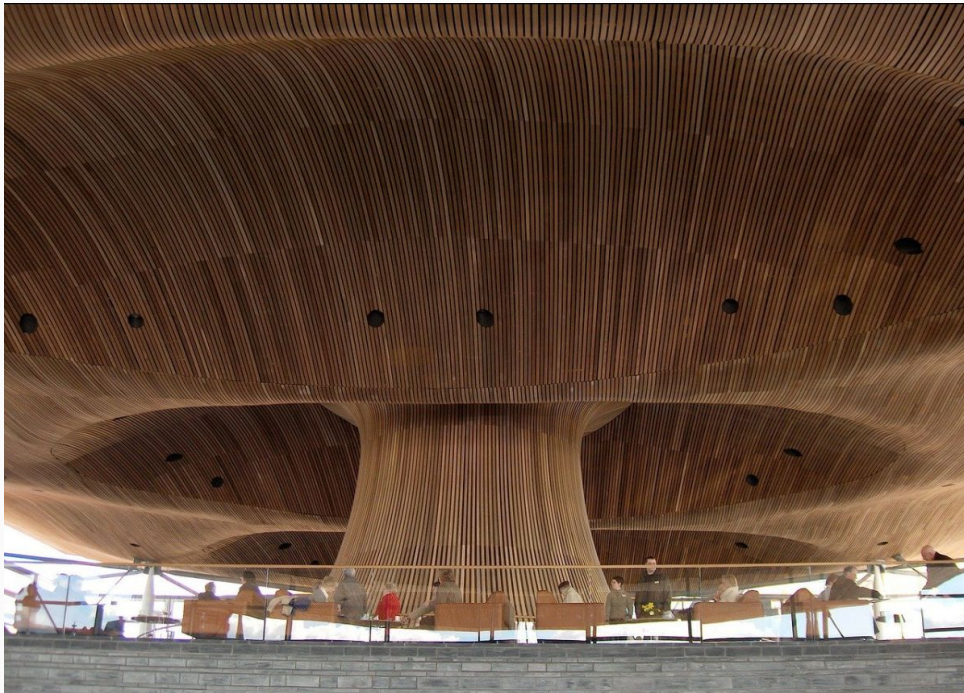
You may remember we asked readers of Weekly News if we should have information on social prescribing available, and the answer was 'yes'. In developing our information we decided that we would provide links to other sources, as there is some excellent information already available.

The information on our website provides the basics of what social prescribing is and links to information from the National Academy of Social Prescribing and NHS England.

We hope you find it useful.

[Social prescribing](#)

[A national framework for social prescribing](#)



The Welsh Government is consulting on developing a national framework for social prescribing.

The goal is to establish a common set of standards and ensure consistent delivery.

There are several ways to respond to the consultation, including Easy Read formats.

The consultation will run until 20th October.

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

[Respond to the consultation](#)

Pharmacy leadership



The UK Commission for Pharmacy has launched a call for evidence to inform its recommendations on the future of pharmacy professional leadership in the UK.

The Commission will look at five key themes:

- Leadership, policy and professionalism
- Regulatory support
- Professional education and training
- Regional, country and international relations and engagement
- Scope of practice of future pharmacy professionals.

The call for evidence is open to the general public, although the Commission expects most responses to be from pharmacy professionals.

The online survey will be open until 16 September 2022. To respond or learn more about the consultation, follow the link in the button below.

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

**From the helpline
While waiting for care**



We were asked recently what our advice is for patients waiting for care. We thought we'd share a shorter version what we said with readers of Weekly News.

The service you're waiting for should provide you with realistic timescales of when you'll be seen and what to expect while you wait. If this isn't happening, you have every right to ask that it does and to ask to be contacted in a way that suits you.

If you're waiting for an appointment, and feel your condition is getting worse, get in touch with the hospital directly. You can also contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service at the hospital to seek support while waiting for an appointment.

It may also be worthwhile to discuss with your GP whether you might be able to get treatment if you choose to visit another hospital. The [NHS e-Referral Service](#) in England, allows patients to choose from different hospitals and clinics across England (including some private hospitals) for their treatment. Look also on the [MyPlannedCare](#) website, which has information about waiting times by English areas, and also has information on [care and support](#) while waiting.

If you're waiting for surgery, you may want to improve your fitness before you are admitted for your operation. The Royal College of Anaesthetists has a programme called [Fitter Better Soon](#) that has advice on how to do this and specific advice for different kinds of surgery like hernia repair, knee replacement and cataract surgery.

If your condition is painful, the Chartered Institute of Physiotherapy has [a range of information](#) about managing muscle, bone and joint pain that may

be helpful.

Finally, once you are called in to see your doctor or have your treatment/surgery, go prepared. Read and follow any advice the hospital has sent you about getting ready for surgery or any diagnostic tests, such as fasting. If you've kept a symptom diary – take it with you. Make sure you have a list of all your medication. Write down any questions you want to ask, in case you forget them.

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

There are five ways we can tackle the NHS staffing crisis

The health impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty

Adult social care charging reform: distribution of funding 2023 to 2024

Why government and employers should think more about 'chronic pain workers'

Progress on support for veterans as country marks Armed Forces Week

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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