



Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News



We welcome new Health Secretary's ABCD



Chief Executive, Rachel Power, has written to welcome Dr Thérèse Coffey as the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Dr Coffey's tweet on the day of her appointment said: "Patients are my top priority, as we focus on ABCD - ambulances, backlogs, care, doctors and dentists". Rachel focused on the Health Secretary's ABCD to raise patients' concerns and offered to meet her as soon as her diary allowed.

[Read the letter](#)

Prostate cancer communications survey



[Image by rawpixel.com](#)

The charity Prostate Cancer Research believes much more needs to be done to support prostate cancer patients in the important conversations they have with their healthcare teams.

To that end it has launched a survey to try to find out more about this problem.

The survey is designed to find out about the conversations prostate cancer patients have with their healthcare team about their prostate cancer. This includes things like:

- Treatment options
- Information about diagnosis, treatment and side effects
- Culture, beliefs, ethnicity and religion
- Support from healthcare team.

The charity will use the findings to develop resources to better support those affected by prostate cancer in the future.

If you've been diagnosed with prostate cancer, the charity would like you to take the survey, which closes on Sunday September 25th. Follow the link in the box below to find out more.

[Find out more](#)

We're looking for a new Chair



Chair of the Board of Trustees, Lucy Watson, during our 2019 Patients Over Politics campaign

Our search has begun to find a successor to Lucy Watson, current Chair of our Board of Trustees who steps down from the role at the end of this year.

Lucy was elected Chair in April 2018 and her outstanding leadership has helped the Patients Association to grow to the position we have attained today.

We are now looking for someone to replace her and join us during our diamond anniversary next year, to continue to champion patient partnership and help us celebrate 60 years of speaking up for change.

Full details of the role and what it involves are on our website.

We are also looking for a new Honorary Treasurer as our current treasurer is also coming to the end of his tenure as a Trustee. Details about this important role are also on our website. Just follow the link in the button below to learn more about both roles.

[Find out more about our two Trustee vacancies](#)

Medicine safety this World Patient Safety Day



Tomorrow, 17th September, is World Patient Safety Day, the day each year when organisations like us add our voices to calls across the globe that patient safety is a fundamental principle of health care.

This year's theme is Medication Without Harm, and our Chair Lucy Watson has written a short article on why medicines are a safety issue and how patient partnership improves safety.

Follow the link in the button below to read Lucy's blog.

[Read Lucy's blog](#)

Scotland consults on patient partnership



The Scottish Government is consulting on the right of patients and members of the public to get involved in the design and delivery of new health or social care services, and to comment on changes to existing services.

As champions of patient partnership, we hope our readers in Scotland will take the time to respond to the consultation, which ends on 30th September, so that the Government knows how people and communities expect to engage with health boards, local authorities, and integration joint boards.

Follow the link below to learn more and respond to the consultation.

[Respond to the consultation](#)

**From the helpline
Support stockings**



Sunita*, who lives in Derby, called our helpline on behalf of her father who had been measured for support stockings two months ago but had not yet received his prescription for them.

She'd called his GP a month ago and been told they couldn't say when he might get the prescription. Sunita told the adviser she was beginning to panic a little, as her father's legs were very swollen.

Our adviser said that when a patient can't get medical advice or treatment from their GP, they should call NHS 111 for advice. The adviser also suggested Sunita contact the Integrated Care Board that covers the area where her father is to ask who provides the service her father needs and to ask if it could suggest a way for her father to get his support stockings. The adviser explained how to find out which Board was her father's by using NHS.uk.

The adviser also suggested, as her father is elderly, Sunita and her father talk about whether she should be registered as his next of kin at his GP practice. This could be helpful in future and he directed her to the information on our website about [next of kin](#).

Sunita and the adviser also talked about the possibility of setting up a lasting power of attorney for health and welfare and also planning for [advanced care](#) for her father, in the event he became unable to express himself in the future. The adviser recommended [Compassion in Dying](#)'s website for information about how to start this conversation.

Sunita said at the end of the call: "I feel much better now."

* 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

Number of people in UK with long-term sickness rose to record 2.5m in July

PSA recommends health and care safety commissioner for each UK country

Next phase of project to develop UK's first medical delivery drone network launches

Millions of UK patients forced to go private amid record NHS waiting lists

UK DRI report urges action to reduce health inequalities in dementia

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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