

Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News



We welcome patient focus in Health Secretary's plans for the NHS



Plans unveiled yesterday by Secretary for Health and Social Care, Dr Thérèse Coffey, about how she will champion patients are very welcome.

We were pleased to see the focus on improving access to primary care, reducing waiting times in the handover of patients from ambulances to A&E,

and providing patients with more information about their general practice's performance, in the Government's plan, which is called Our plan for patients.

But long term stable funding for social care and a long term workforce strategy for health and social care are needed if this plan is to work.

We have let Dr Coffey know we're willing to work in partnership with her and her team to ensure that they truly understand how difficult the last two and a half years have been for patients. You can read our full reaction to the plans online.

[Read our full reaction](#)

Patients Association joins Pain UK



We're now members of Pain UK, a national umbrella body of 42 UK charities that provides a voice for people in pain.

Pain UK's objectives are to:

1. Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UK pain charities, thus helping them to improve quality of life for people in pain

2. Secure general acceptance that pain is an issue in its own right, just as significant as the disease or injury that may be causing it
3. Provide a signposting service for people in pain where help is available
4. Highlight the need for support where it is needed.

Becoming a member of Pain UK means that we can work with Pain UK to raise awareness of the number of people who live with pain. Our role will be to understand issues around pain and lend our campaigning voice to Pain UK.

By being involved, we will increase the knowledge of how patient partnership around pain could support improved care and outcomes for and with patients, as well as opening opportunities for embedding patient partnership with their members.

[Learn more about Pain UK](#)

Survey on the cost of prescriptions



[Pharmacist photo created by gpointstudio - www.freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com)

The Prescription Charge Coalition, which the Patients Association is a member of, is asking patients in England to complete a survey on patients' opinions about prescription charges.

The survey has been developed and is hosted by the online campaign organisation 38 Degrees. It's a very short survey and we would encourage readers of Weekly News to take the time to complete it.

The Prescription Coalition will use the survey findings in its campaigning work to scrap prescription charges for people with long-term conditions in England.

[Complete the survey](#)

Your views wanted on national vaccine strategy



The NHS wants the views of patients, and health and care staff on how NHS vaccination services can be improved.

Information from patients and staff will support local NHS teams to develop vaccine services that are responsive, accessible, convenient and of high quality.

To find out how to share your views, follow the link in the button below.

Share your views on vaccine services

Learn more about hip fractures



Picture credit [rawpixel](#)

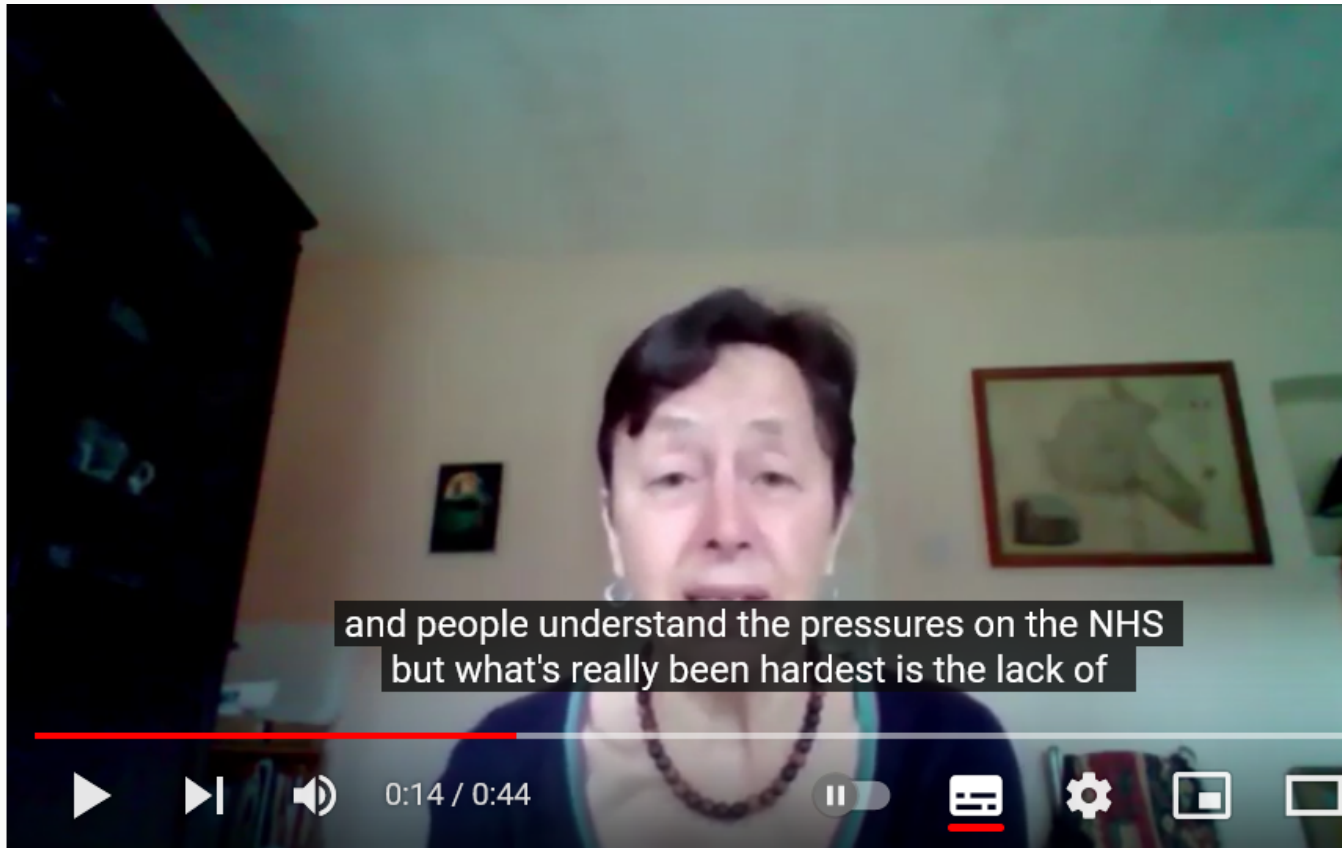
The [National Hip Fracture Database \(NHFD\)](#) has published resources for patients with hip fractures and their carers.

The resources are available online to download from the Royal College of Physicians's website. There are guides for family and carers, hip fracture treatment, and recovery after a hip fracture. Follow the link in the button below to access the information.

The National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD) is a clinically led web-based audit of hip fracture care and secondary prevention in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It collects data on all patients admitted to hospital with hip and femoral fractures aiming to improve their care through auditing, which is fed back to hospitals through targeted reports and [online reporting](#).

[Access the information](#)

Two Trustee posts open on our Board



We are looking for a new Chair of our Board of Trustees, for when Lucy Watson steps down from the role at the end of this year.

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 both roles are on our website. Just follow the link in the button below to learn more.

[Apply for one of our Board vacancies](#)

From the helpline

Next of kin and advance care planning



Mary*, who lives in the South West of England, called our helpline to find out how to change who is listed as her next of kin in her medical records.

Mary's son is currently listed as her next of kin, but she wanted to change it to her partner because she was concerned her son may not carry out her wishes in the event she wasn't able to make her wishes known.

Our adviser told her how to update her information by contacting her GP surgery and shared the link to our information online about next of kin.

Our adviser also suggested that Mary, who is 84, consider putting in place an advance decision and explained how it would ensure her wishes were carried out if she was unable to make or communicate her wishes in the future. We also have information on setting up advance decisions on our website. Another excellent source is [Compassion In Dying's](#) website and it too, has a freephone helpline 0800 999 2434 and specialises in helping people plan for end of life.

* 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

£500m funding to help hospitals discharge patients

Many English maternity units not meeting safety standards

Self-funded IVF: consumer law guidance

A good death with friends and family

What drives health inequalities?

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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