

Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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Tell us your experience of healthcare



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Today we launch a major new survey to collect your experiences of care over the last six months.

We know patients are having a very difficult time at the moment because of the crisis in the NHS, which we believe is a serious threat to patient safety. But we want to hear directly from you about your experiences so we can speak up for you with the Government and NHS.

The survey should take no longer than ten minutes to [complete online](#). If you find it easier, you can call our free helpline and one of our advisers will record your answers for you: call 0800 345 7115 between 9:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday. You will be able to do this without having to give your name.

The survey will remain open until February 20th and we will publish the results in March.

[Take the survey](#)

Cost of living in rural areas - survey



The Rural Services Network (RSN) in partnership with the Citizens Advice Rural Issues Group has launched a Rural Cost of Living Household Survey. We are members of the RSN.

Independent [research](#) commissioned by the RSN in summer last year showed rural areas suffer more acutely from the cost of living crisis compared to urban areas.

The purpose of the survey is to understand more about rural household budgets at what is a very difficult time for many.

Research has shown that those living in rural areas face extra costs and the RSN wants to explore the impacts for households.

The survey closes on 31 March 2023.

[Take the survey](#)

Census data show overall health improving



The latest findings from the 2021 Census show the proportion of people who reported to be in very good health increased over the previous decade.

After adjusting the data for differences in age, between 2011 and 2021, census data on general health show an increase in the proportion of people across England and Wales reporting their health as very good to 47.5% (28.8 million) in 2021, up from 45.0% (26.4 million) in 2011.

The data also show a smaller proportion of people were identified as disabled, while the proportion of unpaid carers aged 5 years and over has also decreased since the census in 2011.

Census 2021 Director Jon Wroth-Smith said possible explanations in the change in the provision of unpaid care could be a result of lockdown measures, with people who previously shared caring responsibilities with a sibling, for instance, taking on that role alone due to a reduction in

household mixing. Or, the high numbers of deaths due to COVID-19 in 2020 and early 2021 could have led to a reduction in the need for unpaid care.

[Read more about health findings in the Census](#)

Resources for patients at risk of osteoporosis



A new report, titled [Supporting Fracture Liaison Services to meet their local patient need](#) has been published by the Fracture Liaison Service Database (FLS-DB), which has links to resources helpful to patients and carers of people who have experienced fragility fractures.

Based on more than 70,000 patient records from 70 Fracture Liaison Services (FLS) across England and Wales, the report has recommendations for a range of audiences including patients and carers. It is [now available to](#)

[download](#) and has been designed to be read online. It contains hyperlinks to a range of performance tables and charts that you can use to compare the performance of your local FLS against national figures.

The report recommends that FLSs focus on their initial treatment and follow up of patients who have sustained a fragility fracture to ensure the best patient outcomes. It also includes hyperlinks to resources aimed at helping patients understand osteoporosis, if they have been diagnosed with the condition.

[Read the report](#)

From the helpline Child's medical records



Sarah* called our helpline to ask how she could get a copy of her 13 year-old daughter's (patient) hospital medical records.

Our adviser explained that as a mum, Sarah had a legal right to request and obtain a copy of her daughter's medical records. The adviser suggested she read our medical records information on the [website](#) for how to go about making the request.

The adviser also explained that the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) would be able to guide her if she encountered difficulties in getting the records.

* Name changed to protect privacy.

If you need information or guidance, our helpline is open between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays, call freephone 0800 3457115. Or you can email helpline@patients-association.org.uk.

We also 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

Ministers order 'rapid review' into mental health inpatient care in England

Health secretary announces new Major Conditions Strategy

A Care System for the Future: how digital development can transform adult social care

Women's healthcare in UK is poorer than in Saudi Arabia, shows new global list

COVID-19: Half a million people missed out on heart drugs

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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