

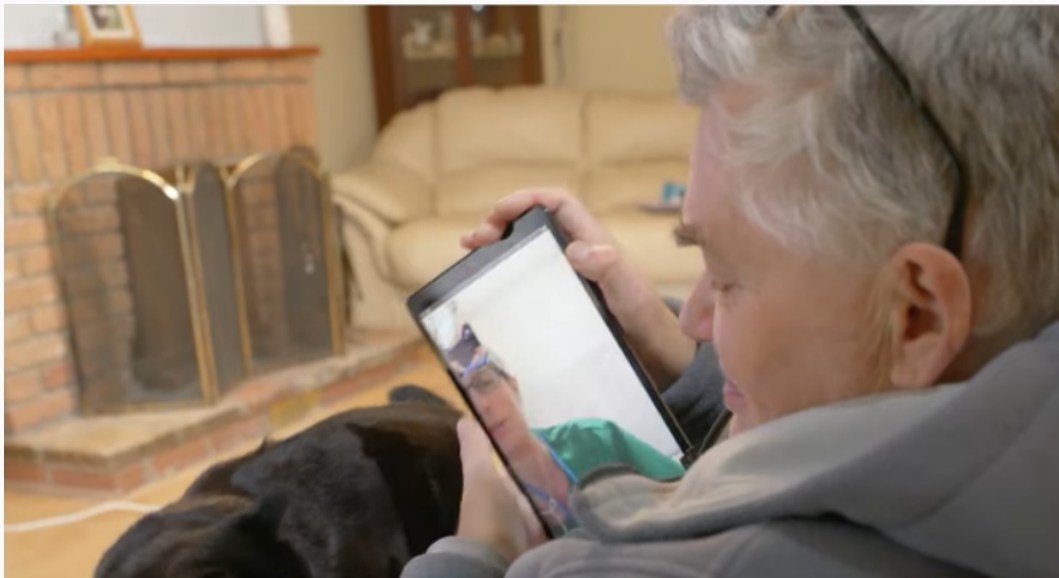
Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News

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 Forward

Find out about virtual wards at our event in May



We asked members earlier this year if they'd be willing to be cared for on a virtual ward. The answer was a cautious, 'yes' but members wanted to know more about the system.

To answer those questions we've put together a panel, who'll explain how the NHS is using virtual wards and answer questions, during a webinar on 25th May.

The panel for the webinar, **Virtual wards: bringing the hospital home**, is:

- Jono Broad, a patient leader in the southwest of England.
- Emma Matthews, Regional Community Development Lead NHS England South West.
- Dr Shelagh O'Riordan, Consultant Community Geriatrician at Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust where she runs a large frailty virtual ward.
- Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive, The Queen's Nursing Institute.
- Our Chair, Ann Lloyd Keen, who is also a registered nurse, will chair this event.

The webinar will be held on Zoom and is free. To book your free place on the webinar, follow the link in the button below.

[Sign up for, Virtual wards: bringing the hospital home](#)

Share your views on the Patient Safety Commissioner's website



Patient Safety Commissioner, Dr Helen Hughes, in white, on the left, at a recent meeting of her advisory group.

We're working with the Office of the Patient Safety Commissioner to ensure that its planned website is helpful and accessible for patients and carers.

We are recruiting people to join a focus group to share feedback on the website before it is launched. During the focus group you will be asked to look at the new website and discuss your experience of using it and its design, as well as how useful and informative the content is.

The focus group is on Thursday 4th May 1 – 3.30pm. It will be held online via Zoom. Participants will receive an £80 voucher for attending the focus group.

To register your interest in taking part please fill out the expression of interest form; follow the link in the button below. We encourage people from all sections of our community to participate. We are committed to having a diverse patient focus group, and particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, disabled, and LGBTQ participants.

The Patient Safety Commissioner's role is to help the Government and the healthcare system in England listen and respond to patients' views and promote patient safety, specifically about medicines and medical devices. You can find out more information [here](#) and, at the moment, we are hosting the Commissioner's work programme on our [website](#) until her website is up and running.

Register your interest in taking part in the Patient Safety Commissioner's workshop

Help shape research into talking therapies



Photo credit: Alex Green

We're recruiting people with long term conditions to join a patient panel for an online workshop to explore their experience of the effectiveness of talking therapies.

Living with long-term health conditions can lead to distress and poor quality of life. The NHS offers talking therapies, such as acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) and cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT).

While ACT has been studied in clinical trials, no research team has analysed all the trial data to understand the impact of ACT in long-term health conditions. To address this gap in knowledge, the University of Strathclyde plans to conduct an analysis of trials that have been carried out in ACT.

Patients' insights shared in the workshop will support a research application by the University of Strathclyde to the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

Following the workshop, the researchers would like to work with one participant on the final grant proposal before submission to the NIHR.

The workshop will take place via Zoom on Wednesday May 17th 2-4pm. The University of Strathclyde is funding this project. Participants will receive an £80 voucher for attendance of the workshop.

To register your interest in taking part, please fill out the expression of interest form. Just follow the link in the button below to complete it.

[Express your interest in the talking therapies workshop](#)

10 years a volunteer



Left, Chief Executive, Rachel Power and Elspeth Evans, Volunteer Membership Officer

Elspeth Evans, Volunteer Membership Officer, has volunteered with us for nearly a decade.

If you're a member and joined in the last ten years, it's likely that Elspeth was the first person you'll have met in the Patients Association. To mark Volunteer Recognition Day, yesterday, Elspeth wrote a blog talking about how she came to volunteer with us, and what keeps her working with us. You can read it by following the link in the button below.

We're very grateful to Elspeth's continuing support of us and all our members.

[Read Elspeth's blog](#)

Membership survey open



Members should have received a link to an online survey earlier this week asking them what they think about being members of the Patients Association.

The survey is open until 17th May and your answers help us ensure you find your membership with us worthwhile. We run this survey every other year.

If you're a member and you haven't received the link, please email us and we'll send it to you. If you are not a member, why not [sign up now](#) for free?

Email us if you didn't receive the link to the survey

Breaking down barriers to shared decision making - webinar



Don't forget - the webinar, Breaking down barriers to shared decision making, is next week on 26th April.

The panel will talk about how, over the course of six co-production meetings, patients and professionals developed simple resources to support better shared decision making conversations.

The webinar will interest any patient who'd like to know how to practice shared decision making, any health professionals looking to improve the tools they use to support personalised care, and integrated care systems looking to strengthen their patient partnership work.

Follow the link in the button below to book your free place on the webinar.

[Sign up for the breaking barriers webinar](#)

Save the date - our AGM is on 25th May



Annual General Meeting

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday 25th May 2.15pm - 3.00pm

The Patients Association annual general meeting will be held online on Thursday May 25th at 2.15pm. We'll be using Zoom.

Members will receive information on how to register for the meeting, resolutions as well as minutes of last year's AGM and the Trustee's annual report by email (or post if you've stated that preference) in the coming days. Please look out for your invitation.

Voting on this year's resolutions will be done in advance as in previous years.

"The Government must show clear leadership"



Our Chief Executive, Rachel Power, was interviewed on BBC Breakfast last weekend about our concerns for patients during the industrial action in the NHS.

Rachel took the opportunity to share the findings from our [recent survey](#), which showed that even before the strikes patients were struggling to contact the services they needed and waiting for a long time for appointments.

She called on the Government and the unions to: "Get back around the table and find a solution." And she reiterated our call for the Government to publish the long awaited workforce plan for health and social care.

Join our helpline team



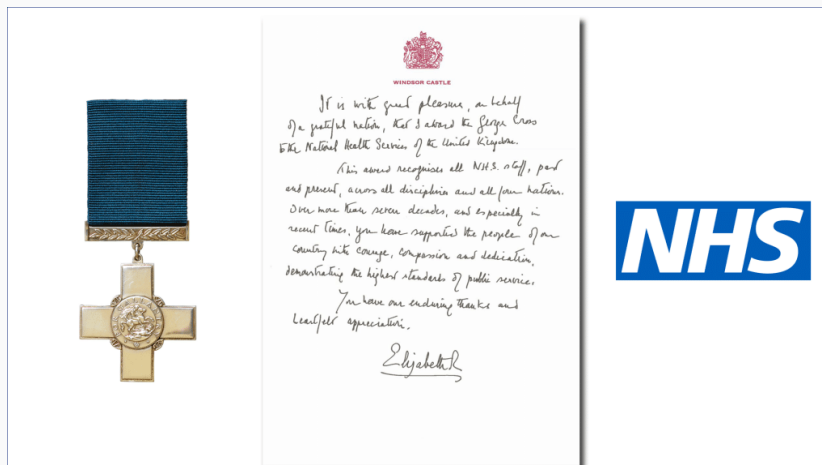
We have a vacancy on our helpline.

Could you provide an efficient, effective and professional service that makes a real difference to the people who contact us?

If this role interests you, or you know someone it would really suit, you can read more about the role including the full job description and how to apply by following the link in the button below.

[Find out more and apply for the role](#)

George cross to tour the nation to mark NHS 75th birthday



The George Cross medal, awarded to the NHS in England last year by the late Queen, is set to tour the nation from July.

As part of the NHS birthday celebrations, the UK's highest civilian gallantry medal will be displayed in science museums across England, after it was bestowed on staff for their exceptional efforts, particularly during the pandemic.

It was only the third time ever in British history the medal has been granted to an organisation for an act of great heroism.

From Thursday 6th July, the medal will be on display at the Science Museum in London as a temporary addition to Medicine: The Wellcome Galleries.

You'll be able to view the medal at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester from February 2024 before going to the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford from July. It will then visit the South West in 2025, with the venue to be confirmed in due course.

The George Cross award recognises the "courage, compassion and dedication" of NHS staff and volunteers, during the pandemic as well as the work of the NHS since it was established in 1948.

COVID-19 spring boosters available now.

Spring COVID-19 vaccinations

People aged 75 or above, or who have a weakened immune system, can book now



Bookings for the [spring booster vaccination](#) for COVID-19 are now open to all eligible groups including those aged 75 and over, as well as those aged 5 years and over with weakened immune systems.

You can book through the NHS App, by calling 119 or [online](#).



Eid Mubarak

We wish all those celebrating Eid al Fitr happiness, peace, and prosperity.

From the helpline

Supporting your general practice



Stanislav* called our helpline because he was both happy and unhappy with his GP practice.

Sometimes it took a long time for the phone to be answered. But when he attended the practice, the GPs and staff were very helpful.

Stanislav lives in Bedfordshire and wanted to know if the surgery had a patient group and what the group might do. The helpline adviser directed him to [information](#) on our website about Patient Participation Groups (PPGs).

We have information on how to set up and run a PPG. We've also recently added a [range of resources](#) developed with Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board as part of our project with the ICB to support its 130+ PPGs.

Stanislav said PPGs sounded very interesting and he would look at the information and then contact the GP surgery about how to become a member.

* 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

CQC's new regulatory approach webinar

Rural Health & Care Alliance - April Casebook

Deaths at home during COVID-19

NHS data: Maximising its impact for all

Medical leaders call for arbitration to resolve junior doctors' dispute

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](#). Thank you.





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