

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

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**Take our survey to tell us what you think of Weekly
News**



In this edition of Weekly News we're giving you the opportunity to tell us what you like, or don't like, about this newsletter.

Please take a few minutes to share your opinions using this [online survey](#). It should take no more than three minutes to complete.

We will use your feedback to enhance Weekly News, but we'll be sure to tell you of any changes we're planning before we make them.

Join one-off MHRA stakeholder group



The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is setting up a stakeholder group and looking for patients to join it.

But hurry, applications close today.

The MHRA regulates medicines, medical devices and blood components for transfusion in the UK. The stakeholder group it's planning will discuss reclassifying a treatment used for dental cavities from a prescription only medicine to a medicine that patients can buy from a pharmacy.

Here's some [information](#) about the process for reclassifying medicines.

The stakeholder group will meet just once remotely via MS Team on Thursday, 21 October in the morning; the meeting will take approximately 2-3 hours. The meeting will be chaired by a member of the [Commission on Human Medicines](#).

Other members of the group will be practising pharmacists, dentists and GPs.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please write to the MHRA at engagement@mhra.gov.uk giving a brief overview of why you think you'd be a suitable member of the stakeholder group. Or you can share your CV with the MHRA, if you'd like.

When you email the MHRA remember to include your full name, email address and

telephone number. **And you have until 5pm today to apply.**

National Screening Committee seeks patient representatives



The fetal, maternal and child health reference group of the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) has two vacancies for Patient & Public Voice (PPV) representatives.

The UK NSC advises ministers and the NHS in the four UK nations about all aspects of [screening](#) and supports implementation of screening programmes. The reference group scrutinises the developing evidence reviews and provides input from their relevant areas of expertise. The reference group also advises on innovation, research proposals, horizon scanning and stakeholder engagement.

Applications for the PPV roles are invited from readers of Weekly News and information about how to apply can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is Friday 5 November 2021.

Members of the group are appointed as individuals, not as representatives of their particular professions, or their employer or any interest group.

Patients Association at Patients Safety Congress



Both our Chair Lucy Watson and Chief Executive Rachel Power were at the Patient Safety Congress earlier this week.

Lucy was on a panel discussing, *Attaching a patient safety lens to complaints to ensure a just culture for patients and staff*, and chaired the session, *Re-examining safety for vulnerable people*.

Rachel chaired the session, *Practical approaches to patient and family engagement*, and as a judge of the Patients Safety Awards took part in the awards ceremony on Monday evening.

Said Rachel: "After months of online meetings it felt a little daunting to go back to a big congress but it was great to hear from so many people committed to improving patient safety."

You can find all the winners [online](#).

From the helpline Confused about dental charges



George* called our free helpline because he was confused about dental charges.

Our adviser informed George that the dentist should explain to what treatment was on the NHS and what was private and what the costs were for both options. The adviser directed him to information on the [NHS website](#) about what dental services are available on the NHS.

The adviser also told him about the [Oral Health Foundation](#), a charity dedicated to improving oral health and wellbeing. It runs the Dental Helpline, which is staffed by fully trained oral health experts and dental nurses, and provides advice on a range of topics, such as dental terms and treatment procedures, oral hygiene, current legislation and regulations, dental charges, complaints procedures, and referrals to other organisations.

The Dental Helpline's number is 01788 539780 and calls are charged at local rates.

* Name changed for privacy.

To share your experiences with 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.

What our team is reading this week

COVID-19: No change recommended to NI's remaining restrictions

Welsh NHS records disastrous waiting times for ambulances and hospital treatment

NHS Scotland's 'biggest crisis' in five charts

Sajid Javid calls for the UK to 'level up' digital health inequalities

NHSX launches strategy to improve patient safety through digital technology

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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