

## Studies

### [Nicotine receptor partial agonists for smoking cessation](#)

Nicotine receptor partial agonists may help people to stop smoking by a combination of maintaining moderate levels of dopamine to counteract withdrawal symptoms (acting as an agonist) and reducing smoking satisfaction (acting as an antagonist). This is an update of a Cochrane Review first published in 2007.

## Case Studies

### [Non-clinical support for patients waiting for mental health treatment](#)

The Waiting List Initiative was a programme co-created by Everyturn Mental Health and two community treatment teams (CTTs) at Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (CNTW) NHS Trust. The initiative gave three-to-six months of non-clinical, emotional, and practical support to people with serious mental illness who were waiting for clinical treatment from the CTTs. This service helped to manage the increased demand on the CTTs, reduce their waiting lists, and ultimately improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes for patients.

## Reports

### [COVID-19 vaccination of children aged 6 months to 4 years: JCVI advice, 9 December 2022 \(updated 26 April 2023\)](#)

Statement setting out the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 6 months to 4 years.

## Public Health

### [Increasing blood pressure checks in community pharmacy: cardiovascular disease impact](#)

Estimates of the cardiovascular disease events and costs avoided from increasing blood pressure checks in community pharmacies in England.

## Campaigns

### [Dying Matters Awareness Week](#)

This week, from 8 - 14 May 2023, we're encouraging communities across the country to come together to talk about death, dying and grief in the workplace.

## Blogs

### [NHS@75 – An invitation to have your say](#)

On Wednesday 5 July 2023, the NHS will turn 75 years old. This significant milestone is an opportunity to celebrate, reflect on the past, and look ahead to the future.

### [Social prescribing link workers can improve mental health outcomes and waiting lists](#)

For Link Worker Day, Christiana Melam explains how social prescribing link workers can support mental health patients before they reach crisis point.

### [‘It’s not what you give up, it’s what you gain’: How I reframed my life without alcohol](#)

Reducing alcohol consumption has many positive benefits for our health. Lower alcohol intake reduces your risk of developing cancer, liver disease and diabetes, and helps improve mood, memory and quality of sleep.

### [Healthy New Towns four years on: the legacy of a national innovation programme](#)

It's often said that the NHS is good at trialling new approaches through pilot schemes but less good at locking in the benefits or spreading the learning more widely. The Healthy New Towns programme was part of a flurry of innovation in the years following the publication of the NHS five-year forward view. The programme involved 10 'demonstrator sites', all areas with significant population growth (but not necessarily 'new towns' in the strictest sense – although some were). These sites took action at three levels with the goal of improving population health and reducing inequalities.

### [Reduce poverty, protect the NHS, improve lives](#)

In this blog, Chris Birt explores how the cost of living crisis is impacting on people's physical and mental health and how that is piling pressure on the already struggling Scottish NHS.

### [Counting the cost of health inequality: new data on premature mortality among people with a mental illness in England](#)

In the three years up to the end of 2020, some 40,000 people living with a mental illness in England died before their 75th birthday. This is one of a number of sobering and hard to accept figures contained in a recently published data briefing from the Government's Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

## News

### [COVID-19: notification to GPs and NHS England to share information, May 2023](#)

Notification to GPs and NHS England that they should share information to support efforts against coronavirus (COVID-19).

### [People urged to get Covid jab before offer ends](#)

The offer of a first or second dose of Covid vaccine will end on 30 June 2023 for most people.

### [New plan to make it easier for patients to see their GP](#)

Action to make it easier for patients to contact their GP and end the 8am rush, with £240m given to practices across England to embrace latest technology.

### [Chronically Brown starts resource bank of translated health information](#)

The first resources are now online in a new bank of translated health information aimed at the South Asian Community. The Chronically Brown resources feature short general information about chronic conditions and disabilities.

### [Two of the biggest enemies faced by community pharmacies](#)

The decision by Lloyds Pharmacy to close of all its 1,300 branches points to a sector which is creeping towards a potentially dangerous crossroad in its history. In an effort to enhance public perceptions around pharmacies, the Government earlier this year launched its own movie, with inspired 'Help Us Help You' adverts where people scream out for a pharmacist in response to the sight of a minor ailment.

### [NHS delivers two million spring boosters](#)

The NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Programme has vaccinated more than two million of the most at-risk people in England with a spring covid jab since the programme launched last month.

### [Parents urged to check children's MMR vaccine records following rise in measles cases](#)

Parents are being asked to check children are fully up to date with their measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccinations by checking their vaccine record in their red book.



10 May 2023

[Medicines sold on social media pose a 'genuine threat' to patient safety - College Chair](#)

Speaking to the The i about the risks posed to patients who buy Semaglutide through social media channels, Professor Kamila Hawthorne, Chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "It's a genuine threat to a patient's safety if they are taking drugs that they have bought online without a prescription from a qualified medical professional, and it's even more worrying if those drugs are being used for purposes that they are not intended to be used for."

[Using technology to enable new approaches to care in the home and community - Q&A with Jenna Collins](#)

The Health Foundation is getting ready to launch a new funding programme which will explore the potential for using technology to enable care at home and in the community. Opening for applications in May 2023, the programme will support up to six teams to develop, test and pilot care that focuses on the caring and enabling relationships needed between those who deliver and those who receive care, and that is proactive in supporting people to live a better and more independent life where possible.

[Arcturus: what to know about the new COVID variant, omicron XBB.1.16](#)

A new COVID variant XBB.1.16, or "Arcturus", has now been identified in at least 34 countries including the UK.