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Cancer/Stroke/Cardiovascular

Stroke and transient ischaemic attack in over 16s: diagnosis and initial management (update) (23/11/18)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is consulting on an update of current [stroke and transient ischaemic attack guidance, CG68](#). The draft update is [proposing](#) that patients with acute ischaemic stroke should be offered a procedure to remove the blood clot up to 24 hours after the onset of symptoms. Thrombectomy, should be offered alongside clot-busting drugs, if there is potential to salvage brain tissue. Currently the procedure is only offered to people with stroke up to 12 hours after onset.

Most strokes - sometimes referred to as a 'brain attacks' - happen when the blood supply to part of the brain is partially or completely blocked, killing brain cells. The other type of stroke is caused by a bleed in the brain. Affecting people of any age, there are more than 100,000 strokes in the UK each year.

The [draft guideline](#), which is open for public consultation until 11 January 2019 is due to be published 01 May 2019.

National Cardiac Audit Programme (NCAP) Annual Report 2018 (22/11/18)

This report by National Cardiac Audit Programme (NCAP) is the first to report on six major national clinical audits of care of patients treated in the UK for heart disease. The six audits are: Congenital audit, Heart Attack audit, Angioplasty audit, Adult Surgery audit, Heart Failure audit and Arrhythmia audit.

This aggregate report highlights aspects of safety, clinical effectiveness and patient outcomes. The audit findings recognise areas of clinical excellence that can be adopted across the NHS, but also identify areas where care falls below

expected standards. These standards should be used to determine local and national quality improvement aims for clinicians, service managers and commissioners.

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

Medical & Surgical Review Programme: Acute Heart Failure Report 2018 (22/11/18)

This report provides a focused review of the quality of care provided to patients who were admitted to hospital with acute heart failure. In England and Wales there is an almost five-fold variation in inpatient mortality due to heart failure between acute hospitals (lowest 6%, highest 26%). The National Heart Failure Audit which includes 80% of patients admitted to hospital with acute heart failure has shown that care delivered in a specialist cardiology ward is associated with a 40% reduction in mortality, but that the proportion of patients transferred to cardiology varies.

The study presented in this report was proposed to explore the variation in the organisation of heart failures services and clinical care for patients with acute heart failure on arrival at, and admission to, hospitals in the UK.

The [report](#) is available to download from the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP).

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Children/Young People/Families

Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: November 2018 (22/11/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published a release of the latest [quarterly data](#), July to September 2018, estimating the number of young people (aged 16 to 24 years) who are not in education, employment or training, by age and sex.

There were 760,000 young people (aged 16 to 24 years) in the UK who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). The percentage of all young people in the UK who were NEET was 10.9%.

Young People and Gambling report (21/11/18)

In a new report the [Gambling Commission](#) has said stronger partnerships are needed to protect children. It calls for regulators and businesses across industries to work together and emphasises the important influence parents can have on children's gambling behaviour.

The [Young People and Gambling report](#) reveals that gambling participation by 11 to 16 year olds has increased in the last 12 months but remains lower compared to all previous years. However, the research indicated that more children are at risk of being harmed by gambling.

The report identifies the most common gambling activities that children are engaging in are often outside of the Gambling Commission's direct regulatory control - such as bets between friends, lottery scratch cards purchased by parents and playing of fruit machines in pubs.

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Commissioning and Economics

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Communities and Local Government

LGA and the Cold Weather Plan for England (21/11/18)

The [Cold Weather Plan for England](#), published annually since 2011, is a framework intended to protect the population from harm to health from cold weather. It aims to prevent the major avoidable effects on health during periods of cold weather in England by alerting people to the negative health effects of cold weather and enabling them to prepare and respond appropriately. It recommends a series of steps to reduce the risks to health from cold weather for:

the NHS, local authorities, social care, and other public agencies
professionals working with people at risk
individuals, local communities and voluntary groups.

The [Local Government Association \(LGA\)](#) highlights the plan and other seasonal links.

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Consumer Participation

Community Mental Health Survey 2018 (22/11/18)

People's experiences of the care they receive from community-based mental health services have continued to deteriorate, according to an [annual survey](#) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The survey highlights concerns around access to care, care planning and support for people with mental health conditions in relation to physical health needs, financial advice or benefits.

More than 12,700 people took part in this year's survey which asked them about their experience of being cared for outside of hospital by community-based mental health services. These include specialist outpatient clinics as well as teams that visit people in their homes.

Although 71% of respondents felt they were 'always' treated with respect and dignity by NHS mental health services, less than a third (30%) rated their overall experience of community mental healthcare as nine out of 10 or above in this year's survey - down from 34% in 2017.

[CQC news release](#)

Shared responsibility for health (23/11/18)

In this [long read](#), Professor Sir Chris Ham of the King's Fund, argues that one of the biggest challenges facing the NHS is cultural. Specifically, the relationship between the public and the NHS, and between patients and the staff who care for them, needs to be transformed. As well as ensuring that the resources (funding and workforce) needed to deliver care are available, national and local leaders must work to fully engage patients and the public in improving health and care

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Disabilities

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Drugs/Alcohol

Review of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (19/11/18)

The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PSA) came into force on 26 May 2016 and created a blanket ban on the production, distribution, sale and supply of psychoactive substances in the United Kingdom for human consumption.

Section 58 of the PSA requires the Secretary of State to review the operation of the Act after 30 months, prepare a report of the review, and give the report to Parliament. This [report](#) fulfils this commitment.

[Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 collection](#)
[BBC News](#)

Shooting Up: infections among people who inject drugs in the UK (19/11/18)

The annual [Shooting Up](#) report, published by Public Health England, provides an overview of infections among people who inject drugs (PWID) in the UK.

Public Health and Alcohol (22/11/18)

To help drive a conversation about alcohol, this collation of papers highlights key alcohol research across a range of Oxford University Press Journals. The article collection explores some of the different areas impacted by alcohol such as childhood to parenthood, the older population, disease, ethics, policy, prevention, technology, and the workplace.

Read the latest Oxford Journals alcohol [research papers](#) for free until the 31st January 2019.

Alcohol Framework 2018 (Scotland) (20/11/18)

The Scottish Government has published a new [Alcohol Framework 2018](#), outlining 20 key actions that seek to 'reduce consumption and minimise alcohol-related harm arising in the first place'.

The strategy follows on from the [implementation of Minimum Unit Pricing \(MUP\)](#) earlier this year after a long running legal challenge by sections of the alcohol industry.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#) explores the issues surrounding the framework and compares it to work reported to be in development on a new national alcohol policy for England and Wales.

Alcohol Change UK: new national charity to reduce alcohol harm (19/11/18)

[Alcohol Change UK](#) is a new charity formed as a merger of Alcohol Concern and Alcohol Research UK. The charity launches its new profile in [Alcohol Awareness Week 2018](#), 19 - 25 November.

The [Alcohol Change Report](#) sets out the charity's approach and covers a number of key areas including:

- Improved knowledge Alcohol Change report
- Better policy and regulation
- Improved drinking behaviours
- Shifted cultural norms
- More and better support and treatment.

[Alcohol Policy UK](#)

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Environment/Transport/Housing

Road Safety Week, 19-25 November 2018

[Analysis](#) by Brake, the road safety charity, has found that, on average, those on two wheels face 63 times higher risk of being killed or seriously injured on British roads, per mile travelled, than car drivers. Bike riders' safety is being highlighted as part of national Road Safety Week. Brake is calling for drivers to be 'Bike Smart' by slowing down, taking care to look properly at junctions and doing the 'Dutch reach' to avoid hitting riders when they open a car door.

The areas of the UK with the highest proportion of cyclist / motorcyclist deaths and serious injuries, in comparison with their area totals, are London (46%) and the South East (42%). Looking solely at cyclist / motorcyclist deaths, in comparison with the area totals, London (31%) and the East Midlands (27%) have the highest proportions.

See also "[Roads have stories](#)", WHO Europe

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Health Protection/Emergencies

Hepatitis C: guidance, data and analysis (23/11/18)

Public Health England publishes [guidance](#) on the characteristics, diagnosis, management and epidemiology of hepatitis C (Hep C, HCV).

Two new documents have been added to the collection:

[Hepatitis C: estimating disease burden](#)
[Hepatitis C treatment monitoring in England](#)

Measles, mumps and rubella: laboratory confirmed cases in England 2018 (23/11/18)

Public Health England (PHE) published [quarterly reports](#), with commentary, on cases confirmed by PHE's Virus Reference Department or national routine laboratory testing (mumps only). The latest report is for July to September 2018.

Extension of HPV vaccination to boys (23/11/18)

This [document](#), from the Department of Health and Social Care, reviews equality issues related to human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in England, to support consideration of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's [advice](#) on extending HPV vaccination to adolescent boys.

The document also covers equality issues around the current HPV vaccination programme for adolescent girls and men who have sex with men (MSM). The analysis was used to support a ministerial decision on whether or not to extend the existing HPV vaccination programme to adolescent boys.

In July 2018 the government [announced](#) that adolescent boys would be offered the HPV vaccine.

[See also Maternity/Infants](#)

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Inequalities/Minorities

UN report on poverty in Britain (16/11/18)

The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, has presented the [preliminary findings](#) of his investigation into poverty in the UK. In the same week the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee launched a [new inquiry](#) to consider how effectively the welfare system works to protect against hardship and chronic deprivation.

The UK's welfare system is currently undergoing fundamental reform, in the transition to Universal Credit alongside other major and largely untested reforms like Benefit sanctions and the Benefit cap. The Committee's latest work on Universal Credit looks at how Government will safeguard some of the most vulnerable members of society as it implements this huge programme of change.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)
[The Guardian](#)

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Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics

HQIP Case Studies (22/11/18)

As well as publishing clinical audits the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) has published a number of [case studies](#). The study published most recently is on the National Asthma and COPD Programme. Other topics have covered National Diabetes Audit, Maternal and Perinatal Audit, and National Falls and Fragility Audit to name a few.

New standard to improve information sharing between community pharmacies and GP practices (21/11/18)

A new standard that will improve sharing clinical information between community pharmacies and GP practices has been published, reports [NHS Digital](#). This will allow information that community pharmacists gather from patients when providing services such as vaccinations, medications and guidance with minor ailments and share that information digitally with patients' GPs. Improving data sharing between community pharmacies and GP practices is expected to cut medication errors, improve patient safety and reduce administrative work for staff.

The first part of the standard, which has been developed by NHS Digital, the Professional Record Standards Body and other partners, details what information should be recorded about vaccinations administered and emergency medicines supplied by community pharmacies.

Not only will the standard support better care in the community, it will provide high-quality data for service planning, commissioning organisations and public health programmes by standardising vaccination information.

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Integrated Health and Social Care

Care and Health Improvement Programme: Integration support offer for health and care system leaders (23/11/18)

In November 2018 the Local Government Association (LGA) with sector partners the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and NHS Providers published [‘Shifting the Centre of Gravity: making place-based, person-centred health and care a reality’](#).

Through the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP), the LGA and a wide range of national partners are supporting councils and their partners to progress their integration ambitions, including sharing learning through good practice guides, case studies, tools, guidance and development programmes.

This [document](#) summarises what is being done in the programme.

Leadership in integrated care systems (ICs) (20/11/18)

This [Future of Care paper](#), aimed at chief executives, directors and senior managers from the NHS, local authorities, housing organisations and voluntary and community sector, is based on findings from interviews with systems leaders and a review of the literature.

The NHS Leadership Academy commissioned Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to undertake this research to further expand the understanding of systems leadership and leadership of integrated care systems. The research will inform the Leadership Academy’s long-term plans for supporting leaders in integrated care systems. Quotes from these leaders are presented throughout the report.

See also SCIE [blog](#) for National Voices, and [press release](#).

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Legislation/Crime/Prisons

Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2018 (22/11/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published a release on how [domestic abuse](#) is dealt with at the local level within England and Wales, using annual data from various sources. The data also includes information on stalking.

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) year ending March 2018, an estimated 7.9% of women (1.3 million) and 4.2% of men (695,000) experienced domestic abuse in the last year.

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Long-term Conditions

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Maternity/Infants

Childbearing for women born in different years, England and Wales: 2017 (22/11/18)

The Office for National Statistics has published a [release](#) on the changing composition of families over time, comparing the fertility of women of the same age and the number of children they have had.

Main points:

- The average completed family size for women in England and Wales who reached the age of 45 years in 2017 was 1.89 children, the lowest level recorded to date.
- Of the women who reached the age of 45 years in 2017, 18% were childless at the end of their childbearing years compared to 10% a generation before (born 1945).
- The most common age of childbirth for women born in 1972 who reached age 45 years in 2017 was 31 years, compared to between 23 and 24 years for women born in 1945.
- A quarter of women who reached age 25 years in 2017 had at least one child – the lowest percentage on record.

Pertussis immunisation in pregnancy: vaccine coverage estimates (England) (23/11/18)

Public Health England publishes quarterly reports on [vaccine uptake](#) data and commentary relating to the pertussis vaccination programme for pregnant women. The latest report is for April to June 2018.

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Mental Health of Children and Young People in England, 2017 (22/11/18)

This survey series provides England's best source of data on trends in child mental health. The [latest survey](#) was funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, commissioned by NHS Digital, and carried out by the [National Centre for Social Research](#), the Office for National Statistics and [Youthinmind](#).

Key Facts:

One in eight (12.8%) 5 to 19-year olds had at least one mental disorder when assessed in 2017

Specific mental disorders were grouped into four broad categories: emotional, behavioural, hyperactivity and other less common disorders. Emotional disorders were the most prevalent type of disorder experienced by 5 to 19-year olds in 2017 (8.1%)

Rates of mental disorders increased with age. 5.5% of 2 to 4-year-old children experienced a mental disorder, compared to 16.9% of 17 to 19-year olds. Caution is needed, however, when comparing rates between age groups due to differences in data collection. For example, teacher reports were available only for 5 to 16-year olds. Please refer to the Survey Design and Methods Report for full details

Data from this survey series reveal a slight increase over time in the prevalence of mental disorder in 5 to 15-year olds (the age-group covered on all surveys in this series). Rising from 9.7% in 1999 and 10.1% in 2004, to 11.2% in 2017 Emotional disorders have become more common in five to 15-year-olds – going from 4.3% in 1999 and 3.9% in 2004 to 5.8% in 2017. All other types of disorder, such as behavioural, hyperactivity and other less common disorders, have remained similar in prevalence for this age group since 1999.

[News release](#)

[Royal College of General Practitioners](#)

[Local Government Association](#)

[Children and Young People Now](#)

Children's Mental Health briefing (22/11/18)

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner for England, has published new [analysis](#) looking at the provision of children's mental health services in England. The research comes in the same week as the publication by NHS Digital of the first prevalence survey of children's mental health since 2004.

The Commissioner's briefing finds that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are improving in most areas in the country, yet with the exception of eating disorder services, the provision of services in the youth justice system and in perinatal mental health care, the rate of progress is slow. A vast gap remains between what is provided and what children need. As a result, the current rate of progress is still not good enough for the majority of children who require help but are not receiving it.

[News release](#)

[Local Government Association](#)

Guardianship under the Mental Health Act 1983, England, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (20/11/18)

This [report](#), from NHS Digital with the Office for National Statistics, contains information on the use of Guardianship under Sections 7 and 37 of the Mental Health Act 1983 during the reporting period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018, including a yearly time series since 2003-04.

Use of Guardianship continues to decline in England. New cases totalled 105 in 2017-18 and 140 in 2016-17, compared to 430 in 2007-08. Of the 152 local authorities in England only 59 reported new cases in 2017-18 and 59 in 2016-17, whilst 90 had cases remaining open at the end of 2017-18.

Psychological Therapies, Annual report on the use of IAPT services - England, 2017-18 (20/11/18)

This [statistical release](#), from NHS Digital, is the annual report on the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme. IAPT is run by the NHS in England and offers NICE-approved therapies for treating people with anxiety or depression.

The publication contains analyses on activity, waiting times and outcomes such as recovery in 2017-18. In addition, the report covers a range of demographic analyses including outcomes for patients of different ages, ethnic group and separately for ex-British Armed Forces personnel.

A total of 50.8% of courses of treatment for anxiety and depression ended in a patient's recovery in 2017-18, and people completing a course of treatment received on average 6.8 sessions.

[News release](#)

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Nutrition/Physical Activity/Obesity

Sugar and calorie reduction (19/11/18)

[Public Health England \(PHE\)](#) reports on a new survey which shows overwhelming public support for reducing sugar and calories in everyday foods.

The survey, carried out by Ipsos MORI, found around 9 in 10 people support the government working with the food industry (manufacturers, supermarkets and the eating out of home sector) to make everyday foods and drinks healthier. Helping the NHS was named as one of the main reasons for people supporting this work.

The survey explored the public's perception of obesity, and PHE's reduction programmes that have challenged the food industry to reduce sugar and calories by 20% in everyday foods such as breakfast cereals, yoghurts and pizzas, as well as ready meals.

Cycling and walking for individual and population health benefits (23/11/18)

This [rapid evidence review](#) for health and care system decision-makers is published by Public Health England.

It has been added to the [Everybody active, every day: framework for physical activity](#) collection of documents which provides an evidence-based approach for national and local action to address the issue of physical inactivity.

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Oral Health

NHS Dental Statistics for England, 2018-19, First Quarterly Report (22/11/18)

This [quarterly publication](#), from NHS Digital, brings together information on NHS dental activity in England up to quarter 1 2018-19 and information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist up to quarter 2 of 2018-19.

Key facts:

- 22 million adult patients were seen by an NHS dentist in the 24-months prior to 1 October 2018, 50.6% of the adult population
- 6.9 million child patients were seen by an NHS dentist in the 12-months prior to 1 October 2018, 58.7% of the child population
- 9.6 million course of treatments (CoT) in quarter 1 of 2018-19, an increase of 171,859 on the same quarter in 2017-18.

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Pharmacy/Prescribing

Faster access to new medicines agreed in deal with industry (23/11/18)

The government and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) have [agreed](#) the outline terms of a deal enabling the NHS to get the best value and most effective medicines into use more quickly.

The voluntary scheme for branded medicines pricing and access is expected to come into effect from January 2019 after the final details have been finalised.

[See also Information/Evidence/Research/Ethics](#)

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Safeguarding

Safeguarding Adults, England, 2017-18 (20/11/18)

This [report](#), from NHS Digital, provides the findings from the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Key facts include:

- 394,655 concerns of abuse were raised during 2017-18, an increase of 8.2% on the previous year.
- There were 150,070 safeguarding enquiries that started in the year; a decrease of 1,090 (0.7%) on 2016-17.
- The number of Section 42 enquiries that commenced during the year fell by 1.1% to 131,860 and involved 107,550 individuals. The number of Other enquiries increased by 1.8% to 18,210 during the same period.
- Older people are much more likely to be the subject of a Section 42 safeguarding enquiry; one in every 43 adults aged 85 and above, compared to one in every 862 adults aged 18-64.

[Community Care](#)

World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse (19/11/18)

In the WHO European Region, it is estimated that 55 million children are subject to some form of violence each year. The consequences are devastating to the physical and mental health of affected individuals, and result in substantial and avoidable health-care costs throughout the life-course.

On World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse, WHO/Europe highlights examples of good practice from around the Region related to the prevention of child maltreatment. The [European status report on preventing child maltreatment](#), published in September 2018, follows on from [Investing in children: the European child maltreatment prevention action plan 2015–2020](#).

[News release](#)

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Workforce Development

Improving training on learning disability and autism (22/11/18)

This [letter](#) from the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England, reminds health and social care employers of their statutory obligations in terms of staff training, following the [Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme \(LeDeR\) 2nd annual report](#).

In response to the report, the government committed to writing to employers and professional groups to promote greater awareness of the [Learning Disabilities Core Skills Education and Training Framework](#).

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- Email: PHSClibrary@kent.gov.uk
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Produced by

Betty O'Callaghan

Mark Doel

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