

Studies

[Self-testing for sexually transmitted infections increases diagnoses while reducing costs](#)

In a new study, people took samples from 3 different sites in the body then pooled the 3 swabs in one container. The swabs were analysed in a single test for the common bacterial infections, gonorrhoea and chlamydia. Self-testing may cause less embarrassment for service users, improve uptake, and free up clinicians' time.

[Increased rates of organ damage are seen in people discharged from hospital after COVID-19](#)

People discharged from hospital after being treated for COVID-19 have increased rates of organ damage, readmission and death, compared to the general population. New research suggests that COVID-19 might place a greater burden on healthcare systems than was previously thought.

Publication

[Making Sense of Women's Health](#)

This publication is designed for the non-specialist nurse. It highlights conditions that women can experience, the likely outcomes and how to access appropriate resources or treatment.

White Paper

[The social care White Paper: not wrong, just not moving far enough in the right direction](#)

Simon Bottery discusses features and areas for concern in the new White Paper.

Policy Paper

[The health and social care approach to winter](#)

Sets out the wide range of preparations made to ensure that health and social care services remain resilient, joined up and available to patients over the coming months. It also announces the allocation of the £700 million Targeted Investment Fund.

Guidance

[SCID screening: helping you decide if you want this for your baby](#)

Information for parents and carers who are offered screening for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) for their babies.

[Breast screening: organising very high risk \(VHR\) screening](#)

Updated information for breast screening service staff about how to organise very high risk (VHR) screening as part of the NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHS BSP).

[Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence](#)

About 1 in 7 adults smoke in the UK. Smoking is still the leading cause of illness and death. About 78,000 people in England die each year from smoking. This guideline brings together all of NICE's guidelines on smoking and using tobacco along with new advice to help professionals give people the best support to stop smoking.

[Mental health data and analysis: a guide for health professionals](#)

Updated guidance for commissioners and health professionals to make decisions about mental health services and interventions based on data and analysis.

Reports

[New report highlights persistent inequalities and continued inequitable care for pregnant women](#)

Findings reflect how pregnant women are being put at greater risk due to clinicians focusing on their pregnancy, rather than the woman's own health. This is particularly the case for the women who died from cancer, with their symptoms often being attributed to pregnancy and not further investigated.

[MPs and health experts call for alcohol marketing restrictions to protect those in recovery](#)

The latest report from the Alcohol Health Alliance (AHA) has found that the “constant bombardment” of alcohol marketing at celebrations such as Christmas and sports events makes it difficult for those in active addiction and recovery to fully participate in everyday life.

[One year on from Out of Sight – what’s changed?](#)

CQC published [a progress report to highlight what has been achieved so far](#) and which areas need more focus since the recommendations made in the 2020 Out of sight – who cares? Restraint, segregation and seclusion review.

News

[Patient experience of NHS and social care services](#)

Nuffield Trust’s updated look at trends in patients’ experiences of NHS and social care services.

[NHS mental health service users report poor experiences of care – and worsening mental health](#)

People using community mental health services in England are often unable to access the support they need, according to results from a new survey – and changes to care during the pandemic are exacerbating existing mental health problems.

[Bereaved partners in England are urged to come forward for more financial support from the England Infected Blood Support Scheme](#)

Bereaved spouses and partners of those who were infected with HIV or Hepatitis C as a result of treatment with NHS blood or blood products in the 1970’s or 1980’s are being urged to come forward and register with EIBSS before 1 April 2022 if they have not already done so to claim support payments, following an update to the scheme.

[Over 600 people set to benefit from innovative lung cancer treatment within the Cancer Drugs Fund](#)

More than 600 people could benefit from an innovative drug for a form of lung cancer as NICE publishes final draft guidance recommending osimertinib within the Cancer Drugs Fund.

[Through a glass darkly: the unseen crisis in home care](#)

While pressures on the NHS continue to dominate headlines, a quiet crisis has been unfolding in the home care sector. Camille Oung describes how the system is likely to reach breaking point this winter, unless urgent action is taken.

[230,000 new PTSD referrals forecast as a result of the pandemic](#)

The pandemic has increased exposure to events with the potential to cause PTSD, with frontline health and care workers and survivors of severe Covid-19 at particularly high risk.

[United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties 26 \(COP26\)](#)

The UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26) took place from 31 October to 12 November 2021. Some experts have claimed that [COP26 finally framed climate change as a public health issue](#), and that message resonated more than it has in previous years. For the first time, the World Health Organisation sponsored a health pavilion at COP26. This made health visible at the Conference, emphasising the links between climate and health.