# HEALTH MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

## 29 October 2026

## Quality and Safety

- **Accelerating Scan4Safety adoption for safer, smarter healthcare** **GS1 UK**
  Drawing on primary research involving 29 health organisations across the UK and Ireland, plus analysis of national cost data, this report shows that Scan4Safety1 and GS1 standards are delivering measurable gains in three areas: patient safety; productivity; financial savings.

- **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Pharmacy Inquiry into medicines shortages in England: One Year On** **All-Party Parliamentary Pharmacy Group**
  This report is intended to capture the key evidence and perspectives shared by participants and should be considered alongside the report's findings and recommendations, which reflect the APPG's conclusions and priorities for future action.

- **MHRA 2030 Strategy to modernise patient-centred regulation for the era of AI and personalised medicines** **MHRA**
  In this strategy, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has set out ambitious plans to translate cutting-edge scientific and technological innovation into better health outcomes for patients across all four nations of the UK.

- **The role of government in optimizing health system readiness for CAR T-Cell therapies: best practices and policy recommendations** **IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science**
  This report examines how government action can enable health systems to deliver CAR T therapies equitably and at scale.

- **CQC publishes equality objectives annual report 2025/26** **CQC**
  The report highlights how CQC working to better understand and respond to inequalities in health and social care. It shows how CQC listening more closely to people whose voices are often unheard, strengthening how they use equality data, embedding equity and human rights in our regulation, and continuing to build a more inclusive workplace.

- **UK government response to the Covid-19 Inquiry Module 4 report** **DHSC/Cabinet Office**
  This publication sets out the UK government's response to the Module 4 report.

- **Thirlwall Inquiry report (updated 16 October)** **DHSC**

- **Electronic referrals for ongoing care: risk of losing patient referrals HSSIB**
  This report is intended for patient safety, digital and leadership teams in healthcare provider organisations that make or receive electronic referrals through e-RS, including general practice and secondary care organisations.

- **Generational differences in attitudes towards the NHS King's Fund**
  Survey data gives us some insight into how satisfied the public is with the NHS, whether they support the idea of the NHS and how they think it should be funded.

- **The state of health care and adult social care in England 2025/26 CQC**
  The report looks at the trends, shares examples of good and outstanding care, and highlights where care needs to improve.

- **Guidance relating to asbestos in NHS buildings NHS Employers**
  This guidance to support awareness and understanding of the safe management of asbestos in healthcare settings.

- **Food and Weight Management: Modernising obesity treatment HoC HSCC**
  This is our second report for our inquiry "Food and Weight Management".

- **Patient Safety Watch: Recognising risk, listening to patients and acting early HSJ**
  This is latest edition of the Patient Safety Watch newsletter.

- **Pharmacy expertise can help tackle corridor care, says Royal College of Pharmacy RCP**
  In a letter to the Health Minister Karin Smyth, Professor Mahendra Patel OBE, chair of RCPharm's English Pharmacy Advisory Council, outlined a series of targeted actions that could help prevent avoidable hospital admissions and improve patient outcomes.

- **Lord Mann's review of antisemitism and other forms of racism in the NHS: update UK Parliament**

## Service Improvement/Redesign

- **Neighbourhood health: what do people want from care closer to home? Healthwatch**
  This blogpost outline the principles needed to make it a success.

- **In six charts: why health must be at the heart of Burnham's 10-year plan for Britain Health Foundation**
  With our health deteriorating across several measures, rebuilding the UK's health must be at the heart of Andy Burnham's 10-year plan for Britain.

- **Our health 'policy tracker' reveals the challenge Burnham faces to build a healthier nation** **Health Foundation**
  The upcoming Budget and 10-year plan for Britain are opportunities for Andy Burnham to show that he sees better health as a national priority.

- **Health across government – policy tracker** **Health Foundation**
  This policy tracker reviews the ambition and progress of policies across government that shape our health, with summaries of key policies and ratings for 14 policy areas.

- **HSJ Podcast: The latest NHS reorganisation nightmare** **HSJ**
  This podcast looks at the future for ICBs, after years of cuts, mergers and changes in responsibilities, and ask whether this time commissioning can be made to work.

- **Why starting small is often the quickest path to improvement at full scale** **IHI**
  In this blog post, Paul Howard talks about by first learning at a small scale, we can ensure interventions are feasible and effective — reducing rework, saving time and resources, and enabling sustainable improvement across the system.

- **Building neighbourhood health around communities: why VCSE partnership is essential & how to make it happen** **NAVCA**
  The intention is for this handbook to evolve into an ongoing process of sharing VCSE learning about what helps neighbourhood health work in practice.

- **Health Bill: role and functions of the restructured DHSC – updated factsheet** **DHSC**
  This document explains the role and functions of the restructured Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

## People Management

- **A clinical protocol for physician assistants, their supervisors, team members and employers (draft)** **RCP**
  This draft consultation document has been developed for use in England, supported by substantial input and engagement from across the four nations which has been received as part of the design process.

- **BMA opposes plans for physician assistants to see undifferentiated patients** **BMA**
  This is a press release from BMA about the role of physician assistants.

- **DAUK backs BMA concerns over draft PA protocol and warns it risks weakening safeguards** **DAUK**

Doctors' Association UK (DAUK) has backed the British Medical Association's (BMA) concerns about the draft national clinical protocol for physician assistants (PAs).

- **Guidance on NHS staff facilities** **NHSE**
  This guidance advises NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts and integrated care boards (ICBs) on the approach they must take in the provision and use of physical staff facilities – including changing, washing and showering areas, toilets and staff accommodation.

- **Workforce crisis: recruitment, retention and wellbeing of NHS staff** **NHE**
  Panel discussion of the conference

- **GMC reports progress on tackling inequalities in medicine** **GMC**
  The General Medical Council (GMC) has reported progress on tackling inequalities in medicine, showing a reduction in disproportionate employer referrals of doctors from black and ethnic minority backgrounds and those who qualified outside the UK.

- **Healthwatch England and local Healthwatch organisations to be retained** **Healthwatch**
  The Government has announced that Healthwatch England and local Healthwatch organisations will be retained and strengthened so that patients' and public experiences play a greater role in improving health and social care services.

- **What can local variation in avoidable emergency admissions tell us?** **Nuffield Trust**
  In this chart of the week, Kathryn Marszalek reveals that Ambulatory care sensitive (ACS) emergency admission rates vary widely across England – with rates in some integrated care boards almost four times higher than in others.

- **Inpatient Falls audit expands beyond hip fracture, helping to build a fuller picture of care** **RCP**
  The latest National Audit of Inpatient Falls (NAIF) report includes inpatient fall-related injuries beyond hip fractures, examining both preventative care before a fall and the quality of care provided afterwards.

- **Improving care in the face of pressure, policy and process** **NHS Alliance**
  Despite immense pressure, staff across the NHS are still delivering excellent care. We need to understand this as much as we analyse where things are going wrong, writes Sonia Nosheen.

## Leadership

- **The 75 most influential Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in health: Full list** **HSJ**
  Full list of most influential Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in health.

- **The gaping hole in minority ethnic leadership** **HSJ**
  HSJ's enlarged list of influential minority ethnic leaders reveals a growing presence at the top of provider trusts – but there are alarming gaps in other parts of the service.

## Patient Experience

- **Views on social prescribing: shaping the National Academy for Social Prescribing's new strategy** **Patients Association**
  This report captures the findings of a survey of people who had received social prescribing, covering what patients valued most, where improvements are needed and the difference social prescribing has made to their lives.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- **Briefing: Regulation, guidance and governance updates for artificial intelligence** **HFMA**
  This briefing provides an overview of the recent regulatory material published to support the introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) in the NHS. The briefing is intended for NHS finance professionals and commissioners across all sectors who wish to understand more about this topic.

- **Making rapid evaluation of AI in health care a reality** **Health Foundation**
  Panel discussion about the key challenges facing the NHS's digital transformation is the speed and cost of evaluating technology, and specifically AI.

- **Minding the gap – AI regulators should learn from the pharmaceutical industry** **Cancer Research UK**
  The debate about the dangers of AI.

- **Scaling ambient voice technology (AVT) safely across the NHS** **NHSE Digital**
  NHS England is providing funding and support to scale AVT, safely and effectively, across the NHS.

- **Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to help detect prostate cancer on MRI – draft guidance** **NICE**
  **The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is producing guidance on Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to help detect prostate cancer on MRI: early-use assessment.**

- **Introducing the AI Biosecurity Lab** **Cabinet Office**

- **NICE backs AI prostate cancer detection tools for NHS use in major diagnostic boost** **NHE**

New artificial intelligence technologies could help NHS radiologists identify prostate cancer more accurately and consistently from MRI scans, following draft guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

## Research and Innovation

- **Commercial principles for data-enabled research and innovation partnerships in the NHS Northern Health Science Alliance**
  The report provides a practical framework to help organisations identify the full scope of activity involved in data-enabled projects and recover the costs associated with delivering them safely, legally and effectively.

- **MHRA unveils ambitious strategy to accelerate innovation and improve patient outcomes NHE**
  The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has set out a bold vision for the future of healthcare regulation, outlining how it will harness scientific and technological advances to improve patient outcomes across the UK by 2030.

- **Faster clinical trials bring cutting-edge treatments to patients DHSC & Office for Life Sciences**
  Patients are set to receive cutting-edge treatments as the government hits its ambitious target to speed up clinical trials.

- **UK pharmacy research strategy NHSE**
  This strategy reflects a shared commitment to embedding research across the pharmacy workforce.

- **Genomics, healthcare and you: overarching engagement programme report Genomics England**
  A year after the NHS 10-Year Health Plan for England and the Life Sciences Sector Plan set out a bold ambition for genomics to support pre-emptive, personalised care and treatment, this report offers a timely opportunity to consider what that ambition could mean in practice.

- **UK clinical trial set-up times plummet as NIHR strengthens study delivery NIHR**
  New figures show that setting up commercial clinical trials in the UK is now much faster and more predictable.

- **Putting people at the heart of technology-enabled care Health Foundation**
  Learning from the programme suggests that the most promising digital innovations may not always be those that introduce entirely new technologies. Instead, it's key that innovations use technology to strengthen relationships, build trust and support more proactive forms of care.

## Public Health

- **Achieving healthy economic growth: a Budget to support prevention? Health**

- **Woman of the North: Closing the health gap for minority ethnic women Health Equity North**

  This report came about following the original 2024 Woman of the North report and a conversation during a summit on the report. At the summit,Pat Poinen, Chair of the North East of England African & Caribbean Association (NEEA&CA), challenged the panel and Executive Director of Health Equity North, Hannah Davies on the limited focus about minoritised ethnic women from the report.

- **Addressing health inequalities through neighbourhood health British Red Cross**
  For NHS leaders, this presents an opportunity to strengthen neighbourhood health approaches that address the root causes of ill health, rather than responding only when people reach crisis point.

- **Why closing the health gap requires ambitious action on obesity Nesta**
  Nesta and The King's Fund share a focus on tackling the root causes of health inequalities so that everyone has the opportunity to live a longer, healthier life. This co-written blog is part of a series from Nesta and the King's Fund, focusing on how policy can shift from treating illness to proactively creating good health.

- **Government response to the Health and Social Care Committee's report on healthy ageing and physical activity DHSC**
  The government's response to the House of Commons' Health and Social Care Committee's (HSCC) 'Healthy Ageing: physical activity in an ageing society' report.

- **Paying with our health: impacts of the cost-of-living crisis Health Foundation**
  In this analysis, Health Foundation explore how rising costs of essential goods and services, particularly food and energy, are affecting health and health inequalities. We examine the pressures households are facing, the ways people are adapting and the implications for health.

- **Take a Seat Case Study - Nottingham Centre for Ageing Better**
  This case study explores how Nottingham has approached their Take a Seat initiative to encourage local businesses and community spaces to provide seating options for older people when they're out and about; opening up the city to everyone.

## Finance

- **The IFS Green Budget – October 2026 IFS**
  This year's edition previews John Healey's first Budget as Chancellor, which he delivers against a difficult backdrop.

- **Thinking about the financial plumbing for neighbourhood health: following the money or changing the flow? Macmillan**
  Insights from system leaders in England and Northern Ireland on supporting the shift to more proactive, preventative community-based health and care.

- **The rural penalty: how NHS funding formulas are disadvantaging rural and coastal areas and putting health devolution at risk Policy Exchange**
  The report finds that one fifth of England, 116 constituencies, risks facing a "Rural Penalty" of lower NHS funding and less access to doctors under the NHS's 10-Year Health Plan with funding formulas, workforce policy and the assumptions in the NHS 10-year plan around "neighbourhood health" all neglecting the reality of how healthcare is delivered in rural settings.

- **£140 million boost to urgent care to ease winter pressures on NHS DHSC**
  £140 million will fund 14 urgent care schemes, with 25 more sites opening for winter, to boost NHS capacity and ease pressure on A&E.

- **Analysis finds that migrants pay more to the NHS than the cost of the care they use NHE**
  The report highlights the growing role of the IHS as a funding stream for the NHS and warns that lower immigration levels could create new financial challenges.

- **The immigration health surcharge: an unstable funding stream? Nuffield Trust**
  This briefing examines the immigration health surcharge (IHS), a fee paid by most people on work and study visas in the UK, on top of their existing visa application costs.

- **Achieving healthy economic growth: a Budget to support prevention? Health Foundation**
  Blog post by David Finch and Katherine Merrifield

- **Budget 2026 HM Treasury**

- **Budget 2026: what you need to know NHS Alliance**
  This briefing for NHS Alliance members provides our summary and analysis of the key elements that impact health and care.

## Claimate

- Podcast Episode 71 - Green innovation and medical technology **NHE**
  This episode is a must-listen for anyone interested in the future of healthcare and the vital steps being taken to ensure that medical technology aligns with sustainable practices.

## Annual Reports & Statistics

- A&E attendances and emergency admissions: September 2026 and quarterly report (Q2)
- Ambulance quality indicators clinical outcomes: May 2026
- Ambulance quality indicators systems indicators: September 2026
- Corridor care: urgent and emergency care daily situation reports: September 2026
- Diagnostic waiting times and activity: August 2026
- Integrated urgent care aggregate data collection: August 2026
- Mixed sex accommodation breaches: August 2026
- National flu and Covid-19 surveillance report: 8 October 2026 (week 41)
- National obesity audit: April-June 2026
- Provisional monthly Hospital Episode Statistics for admitted patient care, outpatient and accident and emergency data: April 2026-August 2026
- Referral to treatment waiting times statistics for consultant-led elective care: August 2026
- Timeliness of acute hospital discharges (discharge ready date): August 2026
- Waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients: August 2026
- Data on written complaints in the NHS: 2025-26
- Estates Returns Information Collection: summary page and dataset for ERIC 2025/26
- Public services performance tracker 2026: cross-service analysis
- Life in the UK 2026
- NHS staffing tracker
- NHS Pension Board annual report: 2024 to 2025
- State of General Practice Report 2026

## Bulletins

MHRA safety roundup: October 2026

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