



Future-proofing Primary Care – 28th August 2020

[Covering COVID-19, [innovation](#), [leadership](#), [skill mix & workforce planning](#), [telehealth](#)]

Supporting the CPD Zone - the 'Go To' place for CPD in General Practice across Thames Valley and Wessex <http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/library/cpd-zone/>

COVID-19 training/resources/research

[Resuming health services during the Covid-19 pandemic: What can the NHS learn from other countries?](#)

Nuffield Trust.

2020.

This briefing looks at what approaches other countries around the world have taken to dealing with the pandemic. Covid-19 has tested the resilience of even the most well-prepared health systems, and a lot can be learnt by the NHS in how other countries are approaching their recovery. Looking across health systems internationally makes clear that the NHS has not been alone in accelerating major system transformations to adapt to and move forward from the coronavirus.

[How might COVID-19 affect the number of GPs available to see patients in England?](#)

The Health Foundation.

2020.

There are a relatively large number of GPs at high risk of mortality from COVID-19, and there is geographical and socioeconomic variation in the distribution of affected GPs. We do not know how many of these GPs will choose to step away from direct patient contact. Further work is required to track what actually happens, and the effect on patient care of a possible reduction in the number of GPs able to consult face-to-face.

Innovation

[Seven lessons from digital transformation during COVID-19](#)

Innovation Agency

12th August 2020

Personal stories told to the Innovation Agency about switching to digital ways of working in the eye of the COVID-19 storm reveal ingenuity, flexibility – and pride.

[More accurate general practice appointment data - guidance.](#)

NHS England & NHS Improvement; 2020.

This guidance introduces an agreed definition of an appointment, and asks general practice to start applying this now and systematically, as an important first step to improve data quality. The guidance reconfirms that the definition of an appointment includes: All relevant staff; All modes; All settings.

Leadership

Skill Mix & Workforce Planning

Experiences of advanced clinical practitioners in training and their supervisors in primary care using a hub and spoke model.

Gloster ; Tomlins, Lucy; Murphy, Neil

Practice Nursing; Aug 2020; vol. 31 (no. 8); p. 334-342

This study looked at the experiences of participants in a hub and spoke training model using a qualitative approach. The hub and spoke format of training is a useful alternative to traditional methods in developing practitioners who work in a bespoke yet broad practice environment, such as primary care.

Available with an NHS OpenAthens log in for eligible users

Provision of first contact physiotherapy in primary care across the UK: a survey of the service

Halls S. et al.

Physiotherapy; Sep 2020; vol. 108 ; p. 2-9

Despite institutional and professional body support for this model and NHS commitment to its implementation, data regarding current FCP provision are limited. This survey provides new evidence regarding variation in FCP practice across the UK, indicating that evidence-informed, context specific guidance on optimal models of provision is required.

Contact the library for a copy of this article

Social prescribing by students: the design and delivery of a social prescribing scheme by medical students in general practice

Ward A. et al.

Education for primary care; Aug 2020 ; p. 1-5

Medical students at a large GP surgery in Corby designed, implemented and led a social prescribing service for the practice's patients. The introduction of a Primary Care Network link worker enhanced this work and student input has continued in the ongoing service. It is hoped the scheme will be rolled out across the Primary Care curriculum in Leicester.

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"Everyone needs to understand each other's systems": Stakeholder views on the acceptability and viability of a Pharmacist Independent Prescriber role in care homes for older people in the UK.

Lane et al.

Health & Social Care in the Community; Sep 2020; vol. 28 (no. 5); p. 1479-1487

Introducing a PIP was welcomed in principle but conditional on: a clearly defined PIP role communicated to stakeholders; collaboration across doctors, PIPs and care-home staff; dialogue about developing the service with residents and relatives, based on trust and effective communication. To embed a PIP service within increasingly complex care-homes provision, the overarching theme from this research was that everyone must "understand each other's systems".

How to embed flexible working for nurses.

NHS Employers.

2020.

This guidance signposts to the latest research and thinking concerning flexible working, highlights what nurses look for in a flexible role, and identifies a number of key enablers to successfully embedding a culture of flexible working.

Emergency department clinical leads' experiences of implementing primary care services where GPs work in or alongside emergency departments in the UK: a qualitative study

Edwards M. et al.

BMC emergency medicine; Aug 2020; vol. 20 (no. 1); p. 62

Introducing a policy advocating a preferred model of service to address primary care demand was not useful for all emergency departments. To support successful and sustainable primary care services in or alongside EDs, policy makers and commissioners should consider varied ways that GPs can be employed to manage variation in local demand and also local contextual factors such as the ability to recruit and retain GPs, sustainable funding, clear governance frameworks, training, support and guidance for all staff. Whether or not streaming to a separate primary care service is useful also depended on the level of primary care demand.

A qualitative study exploring the barriers and facilitators of implementing a cardiovascular disease risk reducing intervention for people with severe mental illness into primary care contexts across England: the 'PRIMROSE' trial

Hassan S et al.

BMC health services research; Aug 2020; vol. 20 (no. 1); p. 753

Future interventions for physical health in people with SMI could consider the following items to improve implementation: 1) training for practitioners in CVD risk prevention to increase practitioners knowledge of physical interventions 2) training in SMI to increase practitioner confidence to engage with people with SMI and reduce mental health stigma and 3) access to resources including specialist services, additional staff and time. Access to specialist behaviour change services may be beneficial for patients with specific health goals. Additional staff to support workload and share knowledge may also be valuable. More time for appointments with people with SMI may allow practitioners to better meet patient needs.

Telehealth

Largest ever study using wearable devices finds physical activity is beneficial for health, and more intense activity is better

Medical Research Council

17th August

Physical activity of any intensity is beneficial for health, but more intense activity has greater benefits, according to a new study published today in *Nature Medicine*.

Digital health and care: learning from Covid-19 (virtual conference)

King's Fund

August 2020

In this event on 2nd -5th November 2020, we are bringing together top experts from the NHS and other parts of the digital health system to discuss the lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Implementation of Home-Based Telemental Health in a Large Child Psychiatry Department During the COVID-19 Crisis.

Sharma.

Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology 2020.

In this study, we present the implementation of a home-based telemental health (HB-TMH) service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our experience provides a roadmap for establishing a HB-TMH service with focus on rapid implementation. It also demonstrates a role for TMH during (rather than after) future crises when usual community resources are not available.

Augmenting Evidence-Based Care With a Texting Mobile Interventionist: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial.

Ben-Zeev.

Psychiatric Services 2020.

This study aimed to evaluate the feasibility and clinical utility of training intensive psychiatric community care team members to serve as "mobile interventionists" who engage patients in recovery-oriented texting exchanges. Exploratory posttreatment clinical effect estimations suggested greater reductions in the severity of paranoid thoughts and depression and improved illness management and recovery in the mobile interventionist group.

Technology and Innovation for long term health conditions

King's Fund

3rd August 2020

This paper looks at four digital innovations in health services from the UK and the Nordic countries: the TeleCare North programme, which provides remote treatment for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); the Patients Know Best portal and electronic health record; remote diabetes monitoring for children at Helsinki University Hospital; and the Huoleti app that connects patients with a support network.

Digital health: the changing landscape of how we access GP services

AXA PPP Healthcare

Jul 2020

This report explores the scope for general practice services to further embrace digitally delivered care and support to patients.

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