



## Reshaping Clinical Care in Primary Care – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

[Covering [dementia](#), [integrated care \(including Primary Care Networks and emerging roles\)](#), [long term conditions](#), [older people](#), [safeguarding](#), [safety](#)]

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### COVID-19 Research, resources, training

#### **Prevalence of COVID-19-related risk factors and risk of severe influenza outcomes in cancer survivors: A matched cohort study using linked English electronic health records data**

*Carreira H. et al.*

*EClinicalMedicine; Dec 2020*

Risks of severe COVID-19 outcomes are likely to be elevated in cancer survivors. This should be taken into account in policies targeted at clinical risk groups, and vaccination for both influenza, and, when available, COVID-19, should be encouraged in cancer survivors.

### Dementia

#### **[APOE and Alzheimer's disease: advances in genetics, pathophysiology, and therapeutic approaches.](#)**

*Serrano-Pozo A. The Lancet Neurology 2021;20(1):P68-80.*

APOE ε4 allele remains the strongest genetic risk factor for sporadic Alzheimer's disease and APOE ε2 allele the strongest genetic protective factor after multiple large scale genome-wide association studies/meta-analyses, however, no therapies directed at APOE are currently available.

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#### **The role of the treating practice in persistence among dementia patients in Germany and the UK**

*Steininger, G and Kostev, K; International Journal of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, 2020; vol 58 (5):247-253*

Physicians play an important role with respect to the persistence of the dementia patients they treat. Further studies are needed to better understand the role of physicians of other specialties in patients' adherence

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#### **[Indicators of dementia disease progression in primary care: an electronic health record cohort study.](#)**

*Rathod-Mistry et al.*

*European Journal of Neurology; December 2020*

Feasibility and validity of potential indicators of progression of dementia derived from primary care records is supported by their frequency of recording and associations with recognised outcomes. Further research should assess whether these markers can help identify patients with poorer prognosis in order to improve outcomes through stratified care and targeted support.

### **Acceptance and self-reported use of a dementia care toolbox by general practice personal: results from an intervention study in German practices.**

*Filbert ; Jäger, Sabine Christine; Weltermann, Birgitta, BMC Family Practice; Dec 2020; 21 (1):1-10*

This cluster-randomised trial (CRT) investigates the effects of a dementia care toolbox mailed to GP practices to facilitate dementia care. It contained patient brochures and posters for the waiting room in three languages, information cards for professionals and practical tools in three languages.

## **Integrated care (including Primary Care Networks and emerging roles**

### **Social prescribing and NHS facilities How could the NHS better use its facilities to support social prescribing, holistic care and community resilience?**

Ben Collins

King's Fund November 2020

The NHS long-term plan has pledged to refer at least 900,000 people to social prescribing by 2023/24 to help improve people's wellbeing; the fitter, healthier and more socially connected people are, the less likely it is they'll need to access local GP or other health professionals. This research, based on a survey conducted with more than 2,000 people in England, shows that there's also a strong appetite from the public for these services.

### **Early evidence of the development of primary care networks in England: a rapid evaluation study**

Dame Judith Smith

November 2020

Primary care networks have mobilised swiftly and developed new services for patients but challenges include sustaining GP support, securing management and leadership capacity, and clarifying their role within the NHS. This study examined the early implementation of primary care networks, especially what has helped or hindered progress, how they operate in relation to pre-existing collaborations, and issues for rural networks.

### **Vertical integration of GP practices with acute hospitals in England and Wales**

Manbinder Sidhu, Jack Pollard, Jon Sussex.

December 2020

In several locations across England and Wales, NHS organisations responsible for managing acute hospitals have also taken over the running of primary care medical practices. This report, commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research and undertaken together with the Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham and the Health Services Research Group at the University of Cambridge, evaluates what has led to this kind of vertical integration in England and Wales, how it has been implemented, and with what consequences.

### **Changes in patient experience associated with growth and collaboration in general practice: observational study using data from the UK GP Patient Survey.**

Forbes et al.

*British Journal of General Practice; Dec 2020; vol. 70 (no. 701)*

Larger general practice size in England may be associated with slightly poorer continuity of care and may not improve patient access. Close collaborative working did not have any demonstrable effect on patient experience.

## Long-Term Conditions

### [GP's perspectives on laboratory test use for monitoring long-term conditions: an audit of current testing practice](#)

Elwenspoek M.M.C. et al.

*BMC family practice*; Dec 2020; vol. 21 (no. 1); p. 257

These results confirm the variation that has been observed in test ordering data. The results also show that most GPs spent a significant part of their day ordering and interpreting monitoring tests. The lack of confidence in knowing how to act on abnormal test results underlines the urgent need for robust evidence on optimal testing and the development of clear and unambiguous testing recommendations. Uncertainties surrounding optimal testing has resulted in an over-use of tests, which leads to a waste of resources, increased GP workload and potential patient harm.

### [Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation: Looking Forward.](#)

Katsanos AH.

*Circulation* 2020;142(24):2371–2388.

Summarises the major advances in stroke prevention for patients with atrial fibrillation during the past 30 years and focuses on novel diagnostic and treatment approaches currently under investigation in ongoing clinical trials.

### [Supported self-management for people with asthma is the most effective model of care.](#)

National Institute for Health Research

2020.

This study compared four self-management models for asthma by reviewing existing research papers. Self-management with regular, pre-planned support was more effective than all other models

### [Updated international guideline on the diagnosis and management of COPD.](#)

*BMJ Best Practice.*

18 December 2020.

New information on chronic management includes:

- A new recommendation about the tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis vaccine.
- Reference to the World Health Organization (WHO) minimum set of interventions for the management of COPD.
- Updated findings on triple therapy and mortality.
- New evidence on mucolytic therapy.
- New evidence on pharmacist-led and lay health coaching for inhaler technique.
- New evidence on acupuncture and acupressure for the palliative treatment of dyspnoea.

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## Older people

### [A non-randomised pilot study of the Solutions for Medication Adherence Problems \(S-MAP\) intervention in community pharmacies to support older adults adhere to multiple medications](#)

Patton, D.E et al.

*Pilot and Feasibility Studies*; 2021; vol 7 (1)

This study demonstrates the feasibility of key study procedures (e.g. pharmacy recruitment) and delivery of a tailored adherence intervention in community pharmacies. However, modifications are required to enhance issues identified with patient recruitment, retention and missing data. A future definitive cRCT will explore the effectiveness of the intervention.



## Safeguarding, Safety

### Risk of Suicide among Patients with Parkinson Disease

Chen Y.-Y et al.

JAMA Psychiatry; 2020

In this population-based cohort study, Parkinson disease, a common neurodegenerative disorder common in elderly persons, was independently associated with an increased risk of suicide.

Integrating mental health care into primary care and PD specialty care, along with socioenvironmental interventions, may help decrease the risk of suicide in patients with PD.

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