

Urology Trade Association

NHS Reform Fortnightly Update

25th March 2021

Retrospective report: 11th March – 25th March

11th March

New figures [released](#) on 11th March by NHS England showed that NHS staff cared for 50% more non-COVID patients during the winter peak than in April 2020. Professor Stephen Powis, National Director for NHS England, said the figures were "a testament to the skill, dedication and commitment nurses, doctors, therapists and countless other staff showed in the most challenging period in NHS history". The figures also showed that 1.3 million patients benefited from non-COVID care in January compared with around 847,00 in April and in the first month of the year, 961,000 patients received elective care – routine operations and other procedures. 350,000 more also got emergency care for other conditions.

17th March

On 17th March, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) [announced](#) a £25 million boost for nurse training, which will see nurses and other healthcare students benefit from expanded virtual training, with £10 million to fund a new nationally-recognised critical care qualification to boost the qualified workforce. The qualification will help staff to develop skills which can be transferred across organisations, providing them with more flexibility to work at hospitals across the country.

18th March

On 18th March, Health Secretary Matt Hancock [set out](#) the support his department are making available to the NHS and social care to help recover from the pandemic. The key takeaways from the speech were a further £6.6 billion of funding for the first half of this coming financial year in addition to the £3 billion committed at the spending review in November 2020, £594 million towards safe hospital discharge, £500 million mental health package and £341 million to support adult social care.

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19th March

In a letter to GPs, NHS England has [confirmed](#) that GP practices will be supported with an extra £120 million over the next six months through the expansion of the Covid-19 support fund. The funding will support the expansion of capacity through to September, following calls by GP leaders earlier this month to expand the scheme. NHS England Director of Primary Care, Ed Waller, and Primary Care Medical Director, Dr Nikki Kanani, told GPs that funding should be used to “*make further progress*” on seven priorities including making inroads into the backlog of care triggered by the pandemic and increasing GP numbers and capacity.

23rd March

On 23rd March, DHSC set out its [vision](#) for the future of clinical research delivery, which is set to benefit patients, clinicians and researchers across the whole of the UK. The vision sets out how the UK government and the devolved administrations will deliver faster, more efficient and more innovative research. Plans include increasing accessibility to research, increasing diversity and allowing more people across the UK to take part. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said that clinical research is the “*backbone*” of healthcare and that he is determined to make the UK the “*best possible place to carry out clinical research*”.

24th March

On 24th March, the Scottish Government [confirmed](#) that NHS staff in Scotland are to be offered a pay rise of at least 4%, with the average pay of a front-line NHS worker set to rise by over £1200 a year. Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said the rise - which does not apply to doctors - recognised the “*service and dedication*” of staff during the pandemic. According to the Scottish Government, this deal will be the most generous National Health Service pay uplift anywhere in the UK, and would represent the biggest single year increase in pay for NHS staff since devolution.

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Lookahead: 26th March – 8th April (The House of Commons and House of Lords will be in recess from 26th March to 12th April)

Relevant Select Committee Inquiries that are currently open

- **Public Accounts Committee** - [Digital Transformation in the NHS](#)
- **Public Accounts Committee** – [NHS nursing workforce](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** – [Management of the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** – [Pre-appointment hearing for the role of Chair of NICE](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** – [Social Care: funding and workforce](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Delivering Core NHS and Care Services during the Pandemic and Beyond](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Workforce burnout and resilience in the NHS and social care](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Coronavirus: lessons learnt](#)
- **Health and Social Care Committee** - [Department's White Paper on health and social care](#)
- **Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee** - [Long term funding of adult social care](#)

Relevant Consultations that are currently open

- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Changes to the NHS Pension Scheme regulations](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** – [Improving Health and Wellbeing of Women in England](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** - [Reforming the Mental Health Act](#)
- **Department of Health and Social Care** – [Regulating healthcare professionals, protecting the public](#)
- **Public Health England** - [Proposed changes for calculating alcohol-related mortality](#)

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Upcoming events

- Monday 26th – Thursday 29th April – King's Fund, [Integrated care systems and place-based partnerships](#)
- Tuesday 20th April – Westminster Health Forum, [Priorities for tackling health inequalities in the national recovery from COVID-19](#)

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