

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
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Attachments: PA+CQC_News.pdf; BPV_Minutes_20250517.pdf; PPGukNews - 28 June 2025.pdf; PPGukNews - 14 June 2025.pdf

Email to All **Barnabas Patient Voices** Members ...

Printed copies to members without email

A copy will also be posted on our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/barnabas.ppg>, and website, <https://barnabasvoices.org.uk/>.

If you can't read any of the attached documents, or want printed copies of anything mentioned, please contact me and I'll try to send you a copy.

Welcome to the July update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members.

Please share healthcare news! (But not anything about your personal care.) Please be brief – just a link to a news item is fine. Email to me at keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk, or leave me a note with reception at the medical centre.

Infectious Disease Update

Covid

The good news is that the incidence of Covid is still at low levels. Although infection levels have been creeping up for some weeks (and the experts were predicting a summer wave) the very latest data today suggests that rates have fallen in the last couple of weeks. It'll be interesting to see if that is real, or just random noise.

The not so good news is that the government have announced the groups eligible for this Autumn's Covid boosters, and it's the same as it was this Spring:

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in care homes for older adults
- individuals who are immunosuppressed aged 6 months and over

So hard luck again to those of us still under 75 but with a number of comorbidities.

More information at <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2025/06/26/whos-eligible-for-the-2025-covid-19-vaccine-or-autumn-booster/>.

Barnabas Patient Voices News

Open Meeting 19/07

Our next Open Meeting is in person on **Saturday 19 July, 10:30, at the Medical Centre.**

The agenda is expected to be:

1. Introductions & Apologies
2. Approve Minutes of May Meeting [attached]

3. [Speaker, if possible]
4. Annual GP Patient Survey Results
5. Member Feedback
6. Practice Updates
7. PPG Updates
8. Matters Arising, AOB

I'm still hoping to be able to organise a speaker for the meeting.

Barnabas Practice News

Staff Updates

- The Practice has recently appointed two new receptionists and still wants to recruit another. Although the Practice advertise on NHS Jobs, this attracts far too many totally unsuitable applicants and very few good ones.
 - The Practice is also looking for a Nurse Associate
 - Our phlebotomist has been away for some weeks because of a family crisis.
 - Dr Bhatoa is going on a six month sabbatical from September.
 - Dr Strang will be going on maternity leave, probably from October.
 - The Practice is planning to hire long-term locums or salaried GPs to cover for Dr Bhatoa & Dr Strang. Hopefully this will help with continuity of care.
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Local Healthcare News

Weight-Loss Jabs

Thousands of patients in England are now able to access Mounjaro (tirzepatide) weight-loss jabs via their GP. However the initial rollout is to 220,000 patients across England. See <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jun/23/nhs-begins-mass-rollout-of-weight-loss-jabs-to-patients-in-england> for more.

NW London NHS have said that in the first phase around 900 people in North West London are expected to qualify. Eligibility will require individuals to:

- be over 18
- have a BMI of 40 or more (or over 37.5 for some ethnic groups)
- have at least four obesity-related conditions (eg. type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease).

In addition Mounjaro will only be offered as part of a comprehensive care plan that includes:

- lifestyle changes
- behavioural support
- increased physical activity.

More details at <https://www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/news/news/tirzepatide-and-nhs-north-west-london>.

New Look Uniforms for NHS Staff

A couple of years back the NHS announced that staff uniforms were being redesigned and standardised. These new uniforms are now in use at our local hospitals. The new uniforms are for nurses and those with specialist roles (eg. pharmacists). However doctors – who are not required to wear uniforms at all times in hospital – are not included in the new colourways.

More at <https://www.lnwh.nhs.uk/news/new-look-uniforms-for-nhs-staff-11319>.

[h/t Sennen]

General NHS & Healthcare News

There have been a lot of announcements and so on recently, so here are those which look to me to be most important.

Hospital Waiting Times

So how is your hospital doing at reducing waiting times?

BBC Verify has created a simple lookup where you can check; find it at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cedg8dz7996o>.

Be Part of Research 2025

Be Part of Research is an NHS initiative to encourage voluntary participation in health and care research; and during 2025-26, they're trying to significantly grow the number of research volunteers and research studies in the scheme. If you join the scheme, you will be asked what areas of health research interest you; then when suitable studies come along you can be invited to take part (but you do not have to take part).

Lots more information at <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/be-part-research-2025-how-you-can-support-campaign>.

At-Home Cervical Screening

More than five million women aren't up to date with their regular cervical screening. From January the NHS will be offering these women a simple, DIY at home, test.

BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czxe8g98vq8o>.

Mpox & Gonorrhoea Vaccination

A reminder that from 1 August, gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, will be eligible for routine Mpox and 4CMenB for gonorrhoea vaccination programmes. Those eligible will be identified opportunistically, including by GPs, and the vaccination will be delivered through sexual health services.

More at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/05/nhs-and-local-government-to-roll-out-world-first-vaccine-programme-to-prevent-gonorrhoea/>.

Changes to infant vaccination schedule

Still on vaccinations, changes are being made to the schedule of infant vaccinations.

Background at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-childhood-vaccination-programme-why-are-they-happening/changes-to-the-childhood-vaccination-programme-why-they-are-happening>.

New timetable at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/routine-childhood-immunisation-schedule/routine-childhood-immunisations-from-1-july-2025-babies-born-from-1-july-2024>.

[Apologies for the ridiculously long links, both here and elsewhere, but I would rather you see the actual provenance of the information up-front, than hide it in a shortened URL.]

Pioneering Cancer Treatment

NHS England will be the first health system worldwide to roll out the pioneering treatment Blenrep for blood cancer patients. This targeted therapy has given promising results in halting the progression of myeloma for nearly three times as long as current treatments.

News report at <https://www.independent.co.uk/bulletin/news/blenrep-myeloma-blood-cancer-treatment-nhs-b2769340.html>.

[h/t Sennen]

British Woman Dies from Rabies

A woman in Yorkshire has died from rabies after she was scratched by a puppy in Morocco. UKHSA said there is no risk to the wider public as there is no documented evidence of rabies passing between people. However UKHSA remind travellers to be very careful around animals when in rabies affected countries – especially in Africa and Asia.

BBC report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c98wyllp170o> and UKHSA news story at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rabies-case-confirmed-following-contact-with-animal-abroad>.

National Maternity Service Investigation

The Health Secretary has announced a national investigation into maternity care in England. The "rapid" inquiry will urgently look at the worst-performing maternity and neonatal services in the country.

News story at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c994x95yygyo>.

GP Patient Charter

NHS England has published the “patient charter” setting out the standard of care they are contracted to provide. Practices will be required to publish (including on their website) a “publicly accessible document”, setting out what patients can expect from their GP, and what to do if patient expectations aren’t met, as well as what is expected of patients. This is expected to become mandatory before the end of the current financial year.

News report at <https://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/breaking-news/nhs-england-publishes-contractual-gp-patient-charter/>.

New GP IT System

NHS England have approved a new IT system for GPs. This is the first new system in the last 25 years. The new system from Medicus Health is already live in four early-adopting sites, serving over 42,000 patients. Medicus Health is the first new supplier to be fully assured through NHS England’s Tech Innovation Framework, which ensures new products are fully compliant on information governance, clinical safety and data protection, while integrating with NHS infrastructure such as the Electronic Prescription Service, NHS e-Referral Service and NHS App.

NHSE news item at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/06/nhs-approves-new-it-system-for-gps-to-help-transform-care/>.

GP Funding Formula Review

Not before time, it has been announced that the Carr-Hill formula used for calculating GP practice funding will be reviewed as a part of the NHS 10-year plan.

News report at <https://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/news/breaking-news/carr-hill-gp-funding-formula-review-announced-as-part-of-10-year-nhs-plan/>.

Hundreds of NHS Agencies to be Scrapped

Over 200 NHS quangos and agencies will be scrapped as part of the upcoming NHS 10-year plan. Organisations scrapped will include Healthwatch England, Health Services Safety Investigations Body, National Guardian’s Office and Commissioning Support Units. The Health Secretary has said the current system is too complex and needs fewer admin overheads, with over 150 bodies responsible for regulating or assessing healthcare services in England, which risked overwhelming staff with uncoordinated guidance.

BBC News report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3w4xl8gyyqo>.

Newsletters

A round-up of potentially interesting newsletters received since the last update.

- **Patients Association weekly news** for 06/06, 13/06, 20/06 & 27/06 – attached as a large PDF, as usual; no printed copies.
- **CQC news** – included with Patients Association news
- **PPGukNews** for 14/06 & 29/26 – attached

Phew! That was a bit of a marathon. Now we should all go and enjoy the summer!

Keith



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