

Keith Marshall

From: Barnabas Patient Voices <keith@barnabasvoices.org.uk>
Sent: 04 August 2026 12:26
To: Barnabas Patient Voices
Subject: Barnabas Patient Voices Monthly Update, August
Attachments: PPGukNews - 31 July 2026.pdf; BPV_Minutes_20260718.pdf; PA_News.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 August update for **Barnabas Patient Voices** members.

Infectious Disease Update

Good news again this month with Covid rates continuing to be very low. However it does look as if there has been a slight up-tick in infections, so hopefully we aren't going to see the traditional late summer wave.

For those interested Prof. Christina Pagel has written about how the wrong lessons are being learnt from the experience of school closures in 2020; article at <https://christinapagel.substack.com/p/we-are-learning-the-wrong-lesson>.

As expected, flu is still off on its summer holidays. This year's flu jabs (for those eligible) are likely to be available from some time in September.

Meanwhile measles infections continue with almost 1000 cases (and three deaths) so far this year. And as before over half of all cases are in London – mostly north and west London, now including Ealing. If you haven't already, please make sure your children have been immunised!

Barnabas Patient Voices News

July Open Meeting – Minutes

The minutes of our July Open Meeting are attached.

This meeting was held as part of a Practice coffee morning which included a very useful Q&A session with our Clinical Pharmacist, Shazmeen Gulamhussein. The minutes contain a few brief notes on the Q&A. Many thanks to Shazmeen for giving up her time on a Saturday morning.

You will also see in the minutes the results of the most recent national GP Patient Survey. Again this year the Practice has not come out well. We all need to redouble our efforts to turn this around and it is hoped that Accurx (see below) will be a major contributor to this.

September Open Meeting – Changed Date!

Our September Open Meeting will be on **Saturday 12 September**, 10:30 at the Medical Centre.

Note that this is a week earlier than previously announced – please update your diaries!

Barnabas Practice News

Accurx is Go!

At long last the Practice have been weaned off eConsult as the app for requesting an appointment. It has been replaced by Accurx, which is much easier, and quicker, to use. Please be patient as everyone is still learning the new system, and hopefully there will be some flyers and/or videos made available for patients.

Accurx is available from the front page of the Practice website and from the NHS App. There is a short introductory video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EDwg-feeUI> and there is online help at <https://support accurx.com/en/collections/2279595-accurx-for-patients>.

Local Healthcare News

West & North London ICB Results from GP Patient Survey

NHS West and North London patients report positive experience of General Practice in latest GP Patient Survey. Across the area 75% of respondents said they had a good overall experience of their GP practice, while 73% said they had a good overall experience of contacting their practice. This only highlights our concerns about the results for Barnabas.

Local Consultant Recognised

Professor Abdul-Majeed Salmasi has been recognised by his peers as the world's greatest medical examiner, marking a remarkable milestone in a career devoted to guiding young clinicians through one of the most demanding gateways in their professional lives. Prof. Salmasi, who has spent many years examining candidates for the MRCP post-graduate medical diploma, received the honour from fellow examiners at the Federation of Royal College of Physicians. Local media report at <http://neighbournet.com/server/common/eanhs032.htm>.

General NHS & Healthcare News

Child Vaccination Rates

A report from the BBC takes a look at why child vaccination rates are falling – and it isn't just down to social media conspiracy theories. Read the report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0qvlw2dd0no>.

Meningitis B Vaccination

Young people, especially those about to go to university, are being encouraged to get the free Meningitis B vaccination. Meningococcal B infection can cause serious, life-threatening problems; and can spread very quickly via close contact, as in universities. The vaccine is now available from many pharmacies. More details, and booking information, at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2026/07/young-people-urged-book-lifesaving-meningitis-jab-high-street-pharmacies/> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgmyggpg42o>.

Prostate Cancer Research

The NHS is inviting around half a million men to join a major prostate cancer research programme which aims to improve early detection and treatment of the cancer. Eligible men who have had or are living

with prostate cancer will be contacted by the NHS. More at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2026/08/nhs-inviting-500000-men-to-join-major-prostate-cancer-research-programme/>.

NHS App

There's a useful 10-minute introductory video to the NHS App, including how to register, on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbaCbfDTb5o>.

NHS Communication

The NHS is to overhaul patient communications and end 'farce' of invitations arriving after appointment. Apparently patients will now receive at least 3 weeks' notice of all new planned medical appointments. [So now we can never have an appointment fewer than 3 weeks ahead? – Ed] More details at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2026/07/nhs-to-overhaul-patient-communications-and-end-farce-of-invitations-arriving-after-appointment/>.

NHS Waiting Times

The NHS is also planning to speed up the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in order to cut waiting times and improve care for millions. Amongst the changes we're promised a new AI triage tool in the NHS App that helps direct patients to the most appropriate NHS service, and widespread use of AI notetaking tools to reduce admin for NHS staff. More at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2026/07/nhs-accelerates-artificial-intelligence-rollout-to-cut-waiting-times-and-improve-care-for-millions/>.

GP Patient List Validation

We often hear complaints about the background work which the NHS performs to validate GPs' patient lists and remove those no longer eligible (eg. they've died or moved away). This often seems to be done without the GP practice's knowledge, causing errors and problems. However the process is necessary to ensure lists are kept current and to ensure that GPs are paid the correct amounts. There's a lot more about the process in a letter to GPs at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/general-practice-patient-list-validation/>.

Newsletters

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

- **Patients Association** Weekly News for 10/07, 17/07, 24/07 & 03/08 – attached as a single PDF; as usual no printed copies due to the size.
- **PPGukNews** for 31/07 – attached

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.

Until next month ... enjoy the hot sunny August but please also pray for some much needed rain ...

Keith



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