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Alert 134

Selected resources published in September/ October 2025

AI and its Implications for Healthcare Education

The 2025 Digital Summit of the Council of Deans of Health addressed the necessary shift in pedagogy towards the institutional preparedness required for responsible AI adoption. It was attended by regulatory bodies, professional societies, and industry partners. This report sets out the discussion on the educational limitations and risks associated with emerging AI tools, alongside their potential for curriculum innovation.

The agenda centred on opportunities, risk mitigations, and governance.

The potential to overcome traditional limitations of scalability and learning personalisation using AI systems is clear. Enhanced simulation and practice, resources that can be adapted to each student's needs, and the innovation of content offers significant curricular enhancements.

However, effective integration requires the management of ethical risks and systemic bias. Misrepresentation of demographic data is a threat and necessitates critical oversight of AI systems. System data must be transparent, and validation frameworks should be in place to monitor accuracy.

Integration must also properly align with the regulations and standards of educational institutions, and professional accountability requires that an over-reliance on AI tools must be mitigated against through a renewed emphasis on critical thinking skills. Additionally, equality of access to AI resources for all students and the skills to use these safely and effectively should form part of the governance framework.

This report establishes an agenda for the responsible integration of AI systems within the health education sector. It underpins the development of principles by the Council of Deans of Health's Innovation and Pedagogy Strategic Policy group, with the purpose of addressing the challenges encountered by education providers and supporting consistency and best practice across the sector.

It also highlights the importance of higher education input in discussions regarding AI implementation in the healthcare sector. The integration of AI literacy and hands-on experience is crucial for preparing the future workforce to meet the demands of the Government's 10-year plan for digital transformation within the NHS.

Furthermore, the convening of educational, ethical, and technical expertise—including HEIs, professional bodies, regulators, AI experts, and industry partners—is paramount for the successful integration of AI. This collaborative approach ensures that solutions are relevant, effective, and reflect diverse perspectives.

The Council of Deans of Health affirms its commitment to responsible AI systems integration. Its objectives include sustained collaboration among stakeholders to ensure ethical and technically robust frameworks, an explicit focus on developing critical thinking skills to manage risks such as bias and over-reliance, and emphasis on ethical and regulatory standards to ensure that professionals always retain accountability for their decisions.

Read**: The Pedagogy of AI: Implications for Healthcare Education** (Council of Deans of Health; 2025)
https://www.councilofdeans.org.uk/resource/the-pedagogy-of-ai-implications-for-healthcare-education/

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The Library, Audrey Emerton Building, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 5BE
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Patient Experience and Safety

Guideline / Policy

Enhanced therapeutic observation and care: developing a local policy.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/enhanced-therapeutic-observation-and-care-developing-a-local-policy/
[This guide is designed to support trusts to develop and implement their enhanced therapeutic observation and care (ETOC) policy. Trusts should create ETOC policies that are living documents, enabling ongoing implementation and continuous improvement that responds to local needs. The information in this guide is applicable to all clinical settings.]

Identifying restrictive practice.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/identifying-restrictive-practice/
[This resource has been developed to raise awareness among staff of the range of restrictive practices that are used within mental health inpatient services and their impact on patients.]

Jess's Rule: Three strikes and we rethink.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/jesss-rule-three-strikes-and-we-rethink/
[Jess's Rule is a primary care initiative to encourage GPs teams to rethink a diagnosis if a patient presents 3 times with the same symptoms or concerns, particularly if symptoms unexpectedly persist, escalate, or remain unexplained. It is led by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England and is supported by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).]

Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis/ Scoping Review

Use of structured handoff protocols for within-hospital unit transitions: a systematic review from Making Healthcare Safer IV. [Abstract]
McCarthy S. *BMJ Quality & Safety* 2025;34(10):680-690.
Check for full-text availability
[Handoffs are a weak link in the chain of clinical care of inpatients. Within-unit handoffs are increasing in frequency due to changes in duty hours. There are strong rationales for standardising the reporting of critical information between providers, and such practices have been adopted by other industries. Hospitals seeking to improve safety outcomes should consider using a structured protocol. Researchers should assess these and other tools in a broader set of practice contexts.]

Women Caregivers' Engagement With Healthcare Services for Their Personal Healthcare Needs: A Scoping Review.
Martin S. *Health and Social Care in the Community* 2025;2025:2778779.
[It is estimated that 3 out of 5 people will become caregivers at some stage throughout their life, with a large percentage of women (75%) being primary carers. The objective of this scoping review is to map the extent, range and nature of literature pertaining to women caregivers and their engagement with healthcare for their personal healthcare needs.]

Interventions for preventing falls in older people in care facilities. [Abstract]
Dyer SM. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2025;8:CD016064.
Check for full-text availability
[Falls in care facilities are likely reduced by multifactorial interventions put in place with the help of facility staff and based on residents' individual circumstances, exercise, and vitamin D supplementation. The number of people falling may be reduced by increasing servings of dairy and exercise in residents with cognitive impairment. It is unclear if single interventions aiming to increase the appropriateness of medication delivery reduce falls.]

Report

2024 adult inpatient survey: statistical release.
Care Quality Commission (CQC); 2025.
https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/surveys/adult-inpatient-survey
[The results of the latest annual survey of hospital inpatients reveal that patient satisfaction levels have improved slightly in the past year with a greater number of respondents rating their overall experience as nine or ten out of ten. However, the results still indicate that many aspects of inpatient care are worse than pre pandemic and show that waiting times and access to treatment are a continued frustration.]

Looking for a particular article? Find an article

Barriers and enablers to making a complaint to a health or social care professional regulator.
Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care; 2025.
https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/publications/barriers-and-enablers-making-complaint-health-or-social-care-professional-regulator
[This research aims to better understand the experiences of people who want to complain or who have complained and the potential barriers or enablers they may face. The report reveals that whilst some individuals had good experiences, many complainants who took part in the research felt discouraged and disappointed by the process, highlighting the need for improvements in accessibility, transparency, communication and public awareness.]

Patient Experience in England: 2025 Edition.
Patient Experience Library; 2025.
https://www.patientlibrary.net/cgi-bin/library.cgi?page=Services_Publications
[Annual report on findings from surveys and other research on patient experience over the last twelve months.]

Managing and Leading People

Guideline / Policy

Getting the basics right for resident doctors: 10 Point Plan.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/getting-the-basics-right-for-resident-doctors-10-point-plan/
[The 75,000 resident doctors working across the NHS are the backbone of the service – but too often they are let down on basic issues like payroll errors, poor rota management, lack of access to rest facilities and hot food, and unnecessarily repeating training. Supported by their commitment to staff under the 10 Year Health Plan for England, NHS England is setting out 10 ways in which they are improving resident doctors working conditions over the next 12 weeks.]

Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis/ Scoping Review

Effectiveness of motivational messages on nurses' professional quality of life: a systematic review.
[Abstract]
Ababneh AMT. *BMJ Open Quality* 2025;14(3):e003100.
Check for full-text availability
[The aim of this review was to assess the efficacy of motivational messages on nurses' professional quality of life and well-being. The authors found that using technological platforms and employing motivational messages during regular work tasks, healthcare organisations may foster a positive work environment which, in turn, promotes nurses' resilience and enhances their well-being.]

Report

Assessing provider capability: Guidance for boards.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/assessing-provider-capability-guidance-for-boards
[This briefing sets out NHS Providers' views on and analysis of Assessing provider capability – guidance for NHS trust boards, published by NHS England.]

'Well-led': an evidence review.
Think Local Act Personal; 2025.
https://thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/resources/well-led-an-evidence-review/
[This report explores what it means to experience 'well-led' care and support, from the perspectives of people with lived experience and people working in health and social care. This work is part of a wider project with the Care Quality Commission, aiming to influence how leadership is understood and assessed across health and social care.]

As a board, what does your digital lead need from you?
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/as-a-board-what-does-your-digital-lead-need-from-you
[This report explores how board members can support their digital leads to realise the benefits of digital transformation. This report is produced as part of the Digital Boards programme which is delivered in partnership with Public Digital and funded by NHS England as part of the Digital Academy programme.]

Health and wellbeing at work 2025.
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD); 2025.
https://www.cipd.org/en/knowledge/reports/health-well-being-work/
[The CIPD's biennial report exploring health, wellbeing and absence management provides trend analysis and practice insight to help employers and people professionals develop and maintain supportive, productive workplaces.]

Improving diversity in NHS communications.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/improving-diversity-in-nhs-communications
[A new report from the Taskforce for Diversity in NHS Communications, offering practical actions to improve diversity in the NHS communications and engagement workforce.]

Leadership and management capability key to boosting public sector productivity.
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD); 2025.
https://www.cipd.org/uk/views-and-insights/thought-leadership/insight/leadership-management-public-sector/
[Briefing. New CIPD research suggests that improvements to leadership and people management could play a significant role in the UK Government's efforts to boost public sector productivity.]

Retention rates of first time HCPC registrants, 2013 to 2020.
Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC); 2025.
https://www.hcpc-uk.org/resources/reports/2025/retention-rates-of-first-time-hcpc-registrants-2013-to-2020/
[This report studies the amount of time that new HCPC registrants stayed on our Register, by analysing both UK-route and international-route registrants who joined the HCPC Register between 2013 and 2020.]

Evidence-Based Summary

Responsible artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare: a paradigm shift in leadership and strategic management.
Haque A. *Leadership in Health Services* 2025;:doi.org/10.1108/LHS-01-2025-0018.
[This study conducts a comprehensive review of current literature, case studies and industry reports to evaluate the implications of responsible AI adoption in healthcare leadership. It focuses on key areas such as AI-driven decision-making, resource optimisation, crisis management and patient care, while also addressing challenges in integrating AI technologies effectively.]

Finding Quality Health Information
Attend this session if you need to search literature for your research project, or if you are required to do any form of review, including systematic reviews.
Wednesday 3 December, 1.00pm - 2.30pm Tuesday 9 December, 10.00am - 11.30am Tuesday 16 December, 9.00am - 10.30am Monday 22 December, 2.00pm - 3.30pm
If you require an alternative date or an in-person session, please note this on the booking form and we will try to accommodate your request.

To book, visit: https://www.uhsussex.nhs.uk/professionals/knowledge-and-libraries/information-skills-teaching/finding-quality-health-information/

Education and Professional Practice

Guideline / Policy

New curriculum guidance to support SLT courses.
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT); 2025.
https://www.rcslt.org/news/new-curriculum-guidance-to-support-slt-courses/
[For education providers with pre-registration programmes to help support the provision of training and the careers of future SLTs. The new guidance includes an update to the curriculum guidance, practice based learning placements information, framework and updated accreditation guidance.]

Education and Career Framework Practitioner Mapping Tool: Advanced Level Knowledge, Skills and Attributes
Society of Radiographers (SoR); 2025.
https://www.sor.org/learning-advice/professional-body-guidance-and-publications/documents-and-publications/policy-guidance-document-library/education-and-career-framework-practitioner-ma-(1)
[This document is designed to support individual practitioners towards advancing practice through implementation of the Education and Career Framework (ECF) into practice. It allows practitioners to undertake a learning needs analysis by mapping against the ECF's requirements for the advanced level of practice.]

Supporting Advancing Practice for Radiographers: ECF Framework
Society of Radiographers (SoR); 2025.
https://www.sor.org/learning-advice/professional-body-guidance-and-publications/documents-and-publications/policy-guidance-document-library/supporting-advancing-practice-for-radiographers-ec
[This work was commissioned to change the CoR accreditation of individual practitioners working at the advanced and consultant levels of practice, to align with the CoR post-registration programme approval processes. Ultimately, this will support individual practitioners towards advancing practice through implementation of the ECF into practice through the development of learning needs analysis mapping resources at the enhanced, advanced and consultant levels of practice.]

The Nursing and Midwifery Council: Principles for Advanced Practice
Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC); 2025.
https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/guidance/advanced-practice-principles/
[The Nursing and Midwifery Council's principles for advanced practice aim to bring clarity and consistency to advanced nursing and midwifery practice across the UK. For professionals: they will help professionals deliver consistent, high quality, safe and effective delivery of care by setting clear expectations for advanced practice nursing and midwifery.]

Ultrasound Practice Educator Guidance
Society of Radiographers (SoR); 2025.
https://www.sor.org/learning-advice/professional-body-guidance-and-publications/documents-and-publications/policy-guidance-document-library/ultrasound-practice-educator-guidance
[This resource has been developed to support practice educators (PEs) in providing high-quality training and mentorship to ultrasound learners.]

Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis/ Scoping Review

Educational Interventions to Develop and Enhance Clinical Documentation Skills in Health Professional Students: A Systematic Review. [Abstract]
Wilesmith S. *The Clinical Teacher* 2025;22(5):e70157.
Check for full-text availability
[Clinical documentation is necessary for effective and safe healthcare practice. This paper systematically reviewed educational interventions aimed at developing entry-level health professional students' clinical documentation skills.]

Integrating artificial intelligence into medical education: a narrative systematic review of current applications, challenges, and future directions. [Abstract]
Ahsan Z. *BMC Medical Education* 2025;25(1):1187.
Check for full-text availability
[Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping both healthcare delivery and the structure of medical education. This narrative review synthesizes insights from 14 studies exploring how AI is being integrated into undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing medical education programs. The evidence highlights a wide range of applications, including diagnostic assistance, curriculum redesign, enhanced assessment methods, and streamlined administrative tasks.]

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[**Consumer engagement in teaching and learning across health disciplines: A systematic quantitative literature review.**](#)
Coyne E. *Nurse Education in Practice* 2025;87:104482.
[The aim of this study was to understand how health consumers contribute to teaching and learning in undergraduate health professional programs. This review provides insights into fostering consumer involvement in teaching, enhancing student learning, and improving consumer outcomes. Training and research are needed to develop strategies that enable undergraduate health students and health consumers to partner together.]

[**The impact of clinical simulation on bridging the theory-practice gap in nursing education: a systematic review.**](#) [Abstract]
Daneshfar M. *BMC Medical Education* 2025;25(1):1216.
Check for full-text availability
[Bridging the gap between theoretical instruction and practical competence remains a central challenge in nursing education. Nursing students often struggle to transfer classroom-acquired knowledge into real-world clinical environments, resulting in decreased confidence, impaired decision-making, and compromised patient care. Clinical simulation has emerged as a promising pedagogical tool to address this longstanding theory–practice gap by recreating realistic scenarios in a controlled setting.]

Report

[**The Pedagogy of AI: Implications for Healthcare Education.**](#)
Council of Deans of Health; 2025.
https://www.councilofdeans.org.uk/resource/the-pedagogy-of-ai-implications-for-healthcare-education/
[This report, in collaboration with Elsevier, follows the Council of Deans of Health 2025 Digital Summit. It examines the limitations and risks associated with emerging AI tools, and considers how educators can be supported to navigate these challenges while embracing AI's potential for curriculum innovation. It offers insights into the preparedness of academic institutions and highlights key considerations for integrating AI responsibly and effectively into teaching and learning.]

[**Learning and development strategy and policy factsheet.**](#)
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD); 2025.
https://www.cipd.org/uk/knowledge/factsheets/strategy-development-factsheet/
[This factsheet looks at the influences on L&D strategy, operational and cultural factors, keeping strategy updated, and how this translates into policy. It also examines the different stakeholders involved in organisational L&D. Finally, the factsheet considers the practical elements of implementing an L&D strategy and policy.]

[**Learning needs analysis factsheet.**](#)
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD); 2025.
https://www.cipd.org/uk/knowledge/factsheets/learning-needs-factsheet/
[Learn how to identify learning and development needs at a range of levels, and leverage the results to enable greater business performance.]

[**RPS Digital Innovation and Education Roundtable Report.**](#)
Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS); 2025.
https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/all-our-campaigns/digital-pharmacy
[The Digital Innovation and Education Roundtable convened experts from across England, Scotland and Wales, academia, the General Pharmaceutical Council and technology providers to explore how digital transformation can be accelerated across pharmacy and wider healthcare services. The event highlighted a shared vision that digital and AI literacy is now essential for pharmacy teams.]

[**Coaching and mentoring factsheet.**](#)
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD); 2025.
https://www.cipd.org/uk/knowledge/factsheets/coaching-mentoring-factsheet/
[This factsheet offers a definition of coaching and mentoring, distinguishing between the two and emphasising the need to link with overall learning and development strategy. It looks at those typically responsible for coaching, both internal and external to the organisation, and how to develop a coaching culture. It also touches on the increasing use of AI as an option.]

Evidence-Based Summary

The impact of digital technologies on students' learning: Results from a literature review.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); 2025.
https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-impact-of-digital-technologies-on-students-learning_9997e7b3-en.html
[OECD Education Working Paper No. 335. Drawing on systematic reviews, meta-analyses and empirical studies, this working paper delivers a balanced assessment of major digital tools, highlighting both their benefits and the challenges they present. The evidence shows that access to technology alone does not guarantee educational gain. Rather, successful digitalisation also requires pedagogical, not solely technical, solutions.]

Understanding the Evidence

Bite-sized information skills sessions showing you how to critically appraise quantitative research and interpret medical statistics to inform patient care or service development.

Identifying Study designs	Thursday 11 December, 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Recognising bias	Thursday 11 December, 2.15pm - 3.15pm
Interpreting statistics	Tuesday 9 December 2025 2.00pm - 3.15pm

If you require an alternative date or an in-person session, please note this on the booking form and we will try to accommodate your request.

To book, visit: https://www.uhsussex.nhs.uk/professionals/knowledge-and-libraries/information-skills-teaching/understanding-the-evidence/

Finance and Procurement

Report

Advancing inward investment into the UK health sector.
Browne Jacobson; 2025.
https://www.brownejacobson.com/insights/advancing-inward-investment-uk-health-sector
[This report outlines some of the opportunities presented by the NHS to attract inward investment. It also highlights key barriers, such as regulatory complexity and fragmented procurement, which must be overcome to fully realise these opportunities. It contains recommendations for a practical roadmap to increase inward investment into the UK health care sector in a mutually beneficial way.]

Drug expenditure dynamics 2000–2022: understanding medicine and healthcare spending in context.
IQVIA Institute for Human Data Science; 2025.
https://www.iqvia.com/Insights/The-IQVIA-Institute/Reports-and-Publications/Reports/Drug-Expenditure-Dynamics-2000-2022
[This analysis finds that drug expenditures remain stable at about 15 per cent of total healthcare spending across 12 major markets, ranging from 9 per cent to 20 per cent.]

How finance teams are helping to reduce health inequalities: further case studies.
Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA); 2025.
https://www.hfma.org.uk/publications/how-finance-teams-are-helping-reduce-health-inequalities-0
[This briefing contains case studies of finance teams' work on health inequalities. It focuses on examples where the finance team has contributed to making a real impact on patient outcomes, and where the insights offer transferable ideas and skills that could be used more widely across the UK.]

Investing in the NHS: empowering the sector to drive productivity, renewal and growth.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/investing-in-the-nhs-empowering-the-sector-to-drive-productivity-renewal-and-growth
[There is broad recognition that the capital regime faces significant challenges and the case for reform is urgent and compelling. This report, jointly developed by NHS Providers and PA Consulting, sets out both the scale of the challenge and the scale of the opportunity. Years of underinvestment has left NHS infrastructure trailing international peers, yet there are practical, deliverable solutions that can reverse that trend and unlock growth in productivity.]

Reducing waste, adding value.
Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA); 2025.
https://www.hfma.org.uk/publications/reducing-waste-adding-value
[This briefing is a report of a roundtable, run jointly by the HFMA and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, on waste reduction in the NHS. Discussions focused on identifying waste, overcoming barriers to change, and fostering a culture that empowers colleagues to take action.]

Mastering NHS supplier relationships for a Digital NHS.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/mastering-supplier-relationships-for-a-digital-nhs
[This long-read explores essential practices for NHS leaders to build the right relationships, manage value and deliver the best outcomes for patients and staff.]

Provider Selection Regime (PSR) annual summary for NHS England.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/provider-selection-regime-psr-annual-summary-for-nhs-england/
[This summary outlines how NHS England applied the Provider Selection Regime between 1 January 2024 and 31 March 2025. It covers key decisions, processes followed, and any contract modifications made under the regime.]

Reforming financial flows: lessons from systems.
NHS Confederation; 2025.
https://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/reforming-financial-flows
[Guidance, case studies and key principles to support designing and implementing new payment mechanisms, as set out in the 10 Year Health Plan.]

Short-term gain, long-term pain: the investment curbing crunch in social care.
Care England; 2025.
https://www.careengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Short-term-gain-long-term-pain-FINAL.pdf
[This short paper outlines the impact that shrinking provider budgets have on the long-term investment in the adult social care sector's future, and the knock-on impact this has on increased year-on-year care costs for the future.]

The financial sustainability of England's adult hospice sector.
National Audit Office (NAO); 2025.
https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/the-financial-sustainability-of-englands-adult-hospice-sector/
[This report examines the independent adult hospice sector in England, with a focus on: the distribution of hospices across England; trends in hospices' funding, spend and delivery of services; and financial challenges across the sector.]

Managing Data, Knowledge and Information

Guideline / Policy

NHS Communications Artificial Intelligence Operating Framework.
NHS Confederation; 2025.
https://www.nhsconfed.org/publications/nhs-communications-artificial-intelligence-operating-framework
[Principles, expectations and safeguards to ensure AI is used in ways that are ethical, inclusive, transparent and anchored in trust.]

Report

Cyber security and resilience.
National Audit Office (NAO); 2025.
https://www.nao.org.uk/insights/cyber-security-and-resilience/
[This guide is for audit and risk assurance committees (ARACs) and non-executive directors. It will support scrutiny and challenge by helping you raise key questions necessary for reducing cyber risk and achieving cyber resilience.]

Using health information to let patients know about research options: legal, policy and ethical issues.
NHS Health Research Authority; 2025.
https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/improving-research/our-work-part-ukcrd-streamline-and-reform-study-set-/using-health-information-to-let-patients-know-about-research-options-legal-policy-and-ethical-issues/
[This report identifies that certain types of research form part of the care pathway. People who are directly involved in providing, supporting or advising on individual care delivered through research have a legitimate relationship with the patient and should, in principle, be able to rely on implied consent to use identifiable confidential patient information to find and contact people about research, subject to certain conditions and safeguards being met.]

Transparency of medical artificial intelligence systems.
Kim C. *Nature Reviews Bioengineering* 2025;:10.1038/s44222-025-00363-w.
[In this Review, we examine the current state of transparency in medical AI, from training data to model development and model deployment, identifying key challenges, risks and opportunities.]

Using artificial intelligence in health research. [Abstract]
Rodger D. *Evidence-Based Nursing* 2025;28(4):203-205.
Check for full-text availability
[Artificial intelligence (AI) is now widely accessible and already being used by healthcare researchers throughout various stages in the research process. In this article, the authors outline several AI applications that can be used in healthcare research, examining their benefits, limitations and outline best practices for maintaining research integrity and ethical standards.]

The state of bring your own device (BYOD) in the adult social care sector.
Digital Care Hub; 2025.
https://www.digitalcarehub.co.uk/resource/the-state-of-bring-your-own-device-byod-in-adult-social-care-2025/
[Bring your own device (BYOD) approaches (where care staff use their own phones or tablets for work) have become increasingly popular in the adult social care sector as they allow organisations to reduce the costs associated with providing staff with devices. This research report explores the risks associated with the current state, and recommends improvements measures to begin to address the risks.]

Toolkit

Facilitating GRADE judgements about the inconsistency of effects using a novel visualisation approach. [Abstract]
Murad M H. *BMJ Evidence-Based Medicine* 2025;30(5):347-350.
Check for full-text availability
[Inconsistency is a key domain that determines the certainty of evidence. The Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach specifically defines inconsistency as the variability in results across studies, and not variability in study characteristics, eligibility criteria or design. Statistical measures of heterogeneity are often used to assess inconsistency, however, major limitations of such measures have been described. AIM: The first aim of this visualisation approach is to teach the concept of inconsistency as it relates to multiple decisional thresholds. The second aim of this visualisation is to provide a practical tool to facilitate making judgements about inconsistency in a meta-analysis or a guideline.]

Service Design and Commissioning

Guideline / Policy

Implementing integrated care board mergers and boundary changes to take effect in April 2026 and 2027.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/implementing-integrated-care-board-mergers-and-boundary-changes-to-take-effect-in-april-2026-and-2027/

[This document provides an overview of technical transition and will be supplemented by a detailed timeline of actions and a due diligence checklist to support integrated care boards to deliver the changes.]

Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis/ Scoping Review

Impact of same day emergency care services on urgent and emergency care delivery outcomes: a systematic review. [Abstract]
Jones K. *Emergency Medicine Journal* 2025;42(10):643-651.
Check for full-text availability
[Limited evidence suggests that implementing SDEC services is feasible and may increase same-day discharge but with variable 30-day mortality (very-low or low confidence) and unexamined change in 30-day ED or SDEC reattendance. Clinical heterogeneity and limited reporting make it difficult to characterise SDEC services. Implementation, although with varied referral criteria, proved feasible given the involvement of senior clinical decision-makers.]

The rise of virtual care in nursing practice: A global bibliometric review.
Borromeo AS. *Journal of Nursing Regulation* 2025;:10.1016/j.jnr.2025.08.013.
[Virtual care technologies such as telehealth, eHealth, remote monitoring, and telenursing are now integral to healthcare. Nurses are key to their delivery, yet research regarding these modalities remains fragmented, with limited theoretical grounding and attention to structural factors. This study aimed to map the global landscape of virtual care in nursing by identifying trends, intellectual foundations, and emerging directions through comprehensive bibliometric analysis.]

Economic evaluations and financial consequences related to the use of telehealth services in older adults seeking unplanned care: a scoping review.
Islam F. *BMC Digital Health* 2025;3:59.
[This review suggests that telehealth services have the potential to reduce costs or achieve cost-savings while maintaining quality of care for older adults. However, robust evidence on their cost-effectiveness remains limited. Further research is therefore imperative to identify best practices for delivering economically viable telehealth solutions to older adults.]

Patient and provider perspective with the use of a central intake system (CIS) for surgical waitlist management: a systematic review. [Abstract]
Kennedy L. *BMJ Open* 2025;15(9):e091530.
Check for full-text availability
[This study aimed to summarise and reflect on current evidence around patient and surgeon perspectives regarding the use of a central intake system (CIS) as a strategy for managing surgical waitlists. The findings highlight the complex balance required to successfully implement CISs.]

Report

East Sussex County Council: local authority assessment
Care Quality Commission (CQC); 2025.
https://www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessment-reports/eastsussex-1025/summary
[Care Quality Commission (CQC) report looking at how local authorities are meeting their responsibilities to make sure people have access to adult social care and support.]

Making commissioning strategic.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/making-commissioning-strategic
[This briefing explores how a more strategic approach to commissioning can benefit patients and communities, and how providers are central to its success.]

The outlook for public sector productivity.
Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS); 2025.
https://ifs.org.uk/publications/outlook-public-sector-productivity
[This report examines and evaluates the government's plans to reduce central administration spending and improve the productivity of public service delivery. It then considers what different scenarios for public sector productivity could mean for public services, public spending and GDP.]

From hospital to community: international lessons on moving care closer to home.
Nuffield Trust; 2025.
https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/from-hospital-to-community-international-lessons-on-moving-care-closer-to-home

[The new 10 Year Health Plan for England promises to shift more care from hospitals into the community, but history shows how hard this ambition is to deliver. This new report looks to Denmark and Ireland, two countries pursuing bold reforms to rebalance care, to understand what it really takes and provide a set of lessons for England.]

Economic analysis of expanding the role of community pharmacy services in medicines optimisation: final report.
National Pharmacy Association; 2025.
https://www.npa.co.uk/membership/overview/campaigning-and-advocacy/medicines-optimisation/
[The NPA commissioned York Health Economics Consortium to conduct an economic analysis of expanding the role of community pharmacy in medicines optimisation in the UK.]

All or nothing? Access and variation in NHS continuing health care.
Nuffield Trust; 2025.
https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/research/all-or-nothing-access-and-variation-in-nhs-continuing-health-care
[NHS continuing health care provides funded health and social care support for people with very complex needs outside hospital. This report shows wide regional variation in eligibility, spending and practice.]

Going private 2025.
Independent Healthcare Provider Network; 2025.
https://www.ihpn.org.uk/going-private-2025-introduction/
[This report looks at public attitudes to private health care. It aims to understand why more people are choosing private health care. It also hopes to help inform work by the private health care industry to continue to improve the service it offers to patients and consumers, particularly in terms of helping people understand and navigate the system.]

One year on: is the government on track to meet its waiting times pledge?
The Health Foundation; 2025.
https://www.health.org.uk/reports-and-analysis/analysis/one-year-on-is-the-government-on-track-to-meet-its-waiting-times
[The government has made bringing down waiting times for elective care its key target for the NHS in England, aiming for 92% of waits to be within 18 weeks by the end of the parliament. This analysis of recent trends projects that, if referrals and removals continue growing at the same pace, the government would make significant progress in reducing waiting times – but would fall just short of delivering on its headline pledge.]

Restoring stability: practical measures for a pressured sector.
Care England; 2025.
https://www.careengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Mini-Pulse-6.pdf
[This associated report highlights solutions that adult social care providers can implement in the here and now that will play some part in alleviating the increasing cost pressures on social care providers.]

State of rural services 2025.
Rural England CIC; 2025.
https://ruralengland.org/state-of-the-rural-services-the-challenges-for-policy-makers/
[This report presents a detailed analysis of how people living in rural areas across England access and experience key public and community services. Drawing on national datasets and official statistics captured up to the end of 2024, the report presents an updated picture of service delivery and accessibility across areas including health and social care, transport, digital connectivity, education, and local infrastructure.]

The state of health care and adult social care in England 2024/25.
Care Quality Commission (CQC); 2025.
https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/state-care
[This report finds that demand for services is increasing across a health and social care system that is already under severe pressure – affecting how easily people can access care and the quality of care they receive. The report also highlights longstanding inequalities with some groups of people more likely to struggle to navigate services, often meaning their families and unpaid carers carry increasing burdens.]

Quality Improvement and Innovation

Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis/ Scoping Review

A systematic review of international performance indicators and metrics relevant to UK general practice.
[Abstract]

Chambers D. *BMJ Open Quality* 2025;14(4):e003477.
Check for full-text availability
[A wide variety of performance indicators/metrics are used to measure the performance of healthcare systems and to promote quality improvement (QI). We sought to identify indicators relevant to QI and organisational development (OD) within primary care/general practices and to evaluate the evidence for their use in QI and OD interventions in UK general practice and primary care.]

AI and Primary Care: Scoping Review. [Abstract]
Katonai G. *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 2025;27:e65950.
Check for full-text availability
[Overall, AI holds significant potential to support primary health care (PHC), especially when aligned with clinical reasoning, workflow needs, and relational care models. However, persistent implementation barriers such as usability challenges, training gaps, and workflow integration issues must be addressed. The evidence included in this review is limited by heterogeneity in study design and the predominance of small-scale feasibility studies.]

Report

Embedding quality: Principles for a national quality management system.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/embedding-quality-principles-for-a-national-quality-management-system
[This briefing presents trust leaders' perspectives on QMSs and presents a vision of what trusts perceive 'good' to look like. It also examines the factors that enable greater systemisation – and at times standardisation – in service pathways in the health service, along with trust perspectives on where the challenges lie.]

Beyond techno-optimism: four critical limitations in the UK's AI policy for health care. [Abstract]
Morley J. *British Journal of General Practice* 2025;75(758):421-424.
Check for full-text availability
[In 2015, the UK Government published Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Implications for the Future of Decision Making, initiating a pattern of biennial artificial intelligence (AI) reports or policy publications. Despite eight governmental changes over this decade, these documents maintain remarkably consistent rhetoric: the UK is primed to become a global AI leader, promising economic prosperity, improved public services, and increased opportunities.]

Future of home-based care with the integration of technology into policy and practice. [Abstract]
McBride M. *British Journal of Community Nursing* 2025;30(10):466-468.
Check for full-text availability
[The current UK government has pledged to upgrade technology as we shift from analogue to digital, to support the challenges of providing care for an ageing nation with complex needs. Digital technology is firmly embedded across community nursing practice, yet staff often cite barriers to its implementation. The author explores the future of technology in home-based care, through the lens of telehealth, telemedicine, virtual wards and ambient documentation.]

Learnings from working with integrated care boards on digital transformation.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/learnings-from-working-with-integrated-care-boards-on-digital-transformation
[Over the last three years, we've been supporting system leaders on digital transformation, helping them to ask the right questions, confidently make decisions to progress the digital agenda and ultimately improve patient outcomes. As this programme of work - delivered in partnership with NHS Confederation and Public Digital and supported by NHS England as part of the Digital Academy programmes- comes to an end, we've summarised the key things we've learnt along the way.]

Operation automation: how to achieve productivity gains in the healthcare system.
Re:State; 2025.
https://re-state.co.uk/publications/operation-automation-how-to-achieve-productivity-gains-in-the-healthcare-system/
[Despite the clear and significant benefits of automation technologies, their adoption across the NHS remains limited. This paper explores how progress can be accelerated rapidly to ensure adoption becomes the norm rather than the exception. This includes simplifying access to capital investment, streamlining the business case process and strengthening change management support.]

NHS league tables: Why thoughtful design is essential.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/nhs-league-tables-why-thoughtful-design-is-essential
[While many trust and ICB leaders recognise the potential of league tables to drive improvement and enhance

public transparency, they all emphasise the importance of careful design and implementation to avoid the risk of unintended consequences. Based on feedback from healthcare leaders, we offer recommendations to help league tables better serve the government, healthcare leaders and importantly, the public.]

The impact of LGA preparation for assurance peer challenges.
Local Government Association (LGA); 2025.
https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/council-assurance-and-peer-challenge/peer-challenges-we-offer/adult-social-care-peer-17
[The LGA's adult social care preparation for assurance peer challenge programme, launched in July 2022, supports councils in preparing for Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessments under the single assessment framework. This evaluation assesses the programme's impact on improving adult social care services, based on a cross-analysis of seventeen LGA peer challenge reports and corresponding CQC local authority assessments, supplemented by findings from 31 councils awaiting CQC reports.]

Toolkit

Navigating AI – practical questions for NHS leaders to ask.
NHS Providers; 2025.
https://nhsproviders.org/resources/navigating-ai-practical-questions-for-nhs-leaders-to-ask
[As Artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly embedded into clinical pathways and new models of care, NHS leaders play a critical role in ensuring safe and ethical implementation that drives benefits for patients and staff. Download our new toolkit, designed to support your conversations at each stage of the journey from considering using AI through to implementing solutions into business-as-usual workflows.]

Climate Change and Sustainability

Guideline / Policy

Climate adaptation reporting – fourth round guidance.
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-adaptation-reporting-fourth-round-guidance
[Guidance for organisations on climate risk assessment and adaptation action planning.]

Climate change and workplace heat stress: technical report and guidance.
World Health Organization (WHO); 2025.
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240099814
[The report details the physiological, socioeconomic, and mental health impacts of heat stress and outlines evidence-based strategies for prevention and mitigation. It emphasizes the need for occupational heat action programmes, stakeholder collaboration, and tailored interventions to protect vulnerable workers, reduce productivity losses, and support sustainable development.]

Report

Green maternity report: taking collective action to deliver low carbon, equitable maternity care.
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG); 2025.
https://www.rcog.org.uk/about-us/sustainability-at-the-rcog/green-maternity/green-maternity-report-2025/
[This report combines case studies from the Green Maternity Challenge with lived experience insights and carbon modelling to identify eight initial priorities for sustainable maternity care and a clear set of evidence-based recommendations. These recommendations are intended to help maternity teams and leaders to drive down health-related emissions from the front line, improve outcomes and experience for women, birthing people and their families, and reduce costs.]

A prescription for change: rethinking plastics use in healthcare to reduce waste, greenhouse gas emissions and costs.
Systemiq; 2025.
https://www.systemiq.earth/reports/a-prescription-for-change/
[This new report from Systemiq and Eunomia, quantifies the environmental and financial impacts of single-use plastics in healthcare and provides a set of circularity and decarbonisation strategies to accelerate progress.]

Five years of a greener NHS: progress and forward look.
NHS England; 2025.
https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/five-years-of-a-greener-nhs-progress-and-forward-look/
[A report on progress made towards the NHS's commitment to deliver a net zero health service, in the 5 years since the original publication of 'Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service' in October 2020.]

[Transition to reusable medical products in NHS hospitals: current practice and challenges.](#)
Centre for Sustainable Healthcare; 2025.
https://sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/reusable-medical-products-in-the-nhs-adoption-barriers-and-enablers/
[This report, commissioned by Department of Health and Social Care's Design for Life programme and delivered with input from Brighton and Sussex Medical School, explores the adoption of reusable products such as blood pressure cuffs, bronchoscopes, and slide sheets across NHS trusts. The study highlights key barriers and enablers, as well as the environmental, financial, and social benefits of switching to reusables.]

[Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) report: cold.](#)
UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-effects-of-climate-change-hecc-report-cold
[The 2023 Health Effects of Climate Change (HECC) report provides an analysis of how climate change makes extreme weather events such as cold, more intense and variable.]

Public Health

Guideline / Policy

[Promoting work as a health outcome: guidance for AHP leaders.](#)
Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-work-as-a-health-outcome-guidance-for-ahp-leaders
[This guidance has been co-developed with allied health professionals (AHPs), professional bodies and expert advisers for use by AHP leaders in organisations, systems and regions. This guide focuses on three aspects where leaders can support change: understanding and influencing the wider system related to work and health; supporting the whole workforce to understand their role in work and health; and optimising AHP input to work and health specific services.]

[Cold weather.](#)
UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cold-weather
[Cold weather presents a number of risks to health. Information and guidance has been produced to help professionals and the public understand the risks and take action to protect health.]

[Supported housing: guidance for local authorities in England.](#)
Local Government Association (LGA); 2025.
https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/supported-housing-guidance-local-authorities-england
[In 2023-4 the shortage of supported housing cost the NHS £71 million through delayed mental health hospital discharges. Expanding provision has the potential to save up to £50 million a year for the NHS and a total annual saving of £6 billion for the wider public purse. The guidance has been developed to reflect the realities councils face in overseeing a complex and often fragmented supported housing market.]

[Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education.](#)
Department for Education (DfE); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education
[Revised guidance on 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' which will come into force 1 September 2026.]

[Commercial baby food and drink: voluntary industry guidelines.](#)
Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commercial-baby-food-and-drink-voluntary-industry-guidelines
[Voluntary industry guidelines for commercial baby food and drink aimed at children aged up to 36 months.]

Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis/ Scoping Review
Review Article: The effectiveness of school-based interventions for reducing screen time - a systematic review and meta-analysis. [Abstract]
Lai NM. *Child and Adolescent Mental Health* 2025;30(3):223-237.
Check for full-text availability
[Excessive screen time is associated with adverse physical and mental well-being for children. Interventions to reduce screen time in different settings have been studied extensively, with mixed findings. We systematically reviewed evidence that evaluated the effects of screen time reduction interventions conducted in school settings on screen usage, physical, and mental health of school children.]

The association of parental or caregiver alcohol use with child maltreatment: A systematic review and meta-analysis of longitudinal studies. [Abstract]
Leung JYY. *Addiction* 2025;120(9):1724-1738.
Check for full-text availability
[Caregiver alcohol use may be an important risk factor for child maltreatment, adding to the growing body of evidence on alcohol's harm to others and calling for stronger actions to reduce alcohol harm.]

Report

A report on vaping and children and young people with special educational needs in Brighton and Hove.
Healthwatch Brighton & Hove; 2025.
https://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk/report/2025-10-21/report-vaping-and-children-young-people-special-educational-needs
[A high percentage of the children and young people with SEND we spoke to are vaping on a regular basis (for example 38% reported vaping daily). The research identified a potential relationship between mental health and vaping: 69% of children and young people told us that vaping helps their mental health and/or helps to relieve stress.]

Caring about health.
Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH); 2025.
https://www.rsph.org.uk/our-work/publications/caring-about-health/
[This report looks at the health outcomes of adults using social care services and how the system can have a more active role in health improvement. It calls for reform to key areas of adult social care to improve working conditions and widen access to public health skills training for the workforce.]

Health trends in England.
Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID); 2025.
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/health-trends-in-england
[This report presents trends in data on the health of people in England, including risk factors, disease prevalence and outcomes. Topics covered have been chosen to include a broad range of conditions, health outcomes and risk factors for poor health and wellbeing.]

Trans and Non-binary Experiences of GPs in Brighton & Hove.
Healthwatch Brighton and Hove; 2025.
https://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk/report/2025-09-18/trans-non-binary-experiences-gps-brighton-hove
[Locally, we had 34 responses to this survey, and though the feedback does highlight some areas of concern, there were lots of positive findings too. In summary, GP support for gender and other care was good overall, but a significant minority thought less so. More respect was thought to be shown by GPs, Practice Nurses and Receptionists, compared to Pharmacists and Practice Managers.]

Whole City Healthy Weight: Annual report of the Director of Public Health 2024.
Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC); 2025.
https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/about-public-health/public-health-annual-report-2024
[This year the annual report of the Director of Public Health explores a whole systems approach to healthy weight and makes recommendations that continue to develop this work and the achievements of the whole council and citywide approach to a healthy weight.]

The Big Mental Health Report 2025.
Mind; 2025.
https://www.mind.org.uk/about-us/our-policy-work/the-big-mental-health-report/
[This is our annual look at mental health in England and Wales. The report shows us how people are doing, how services are working, and what still needs to change. With support from Centre for Mental Health and our research partners, we've pulled together the clearest picture yet of mental health today.]

The children's plan: the Children's Commissioner's school census.
The Children's Commissioner; 2025.
https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/the-childrens-plan/
[This national census of school leaders reveals deep concerns about children's lives beyond the classroom, as schools struggle to fill gaps in support without the backing of wider services. The data provides a picture of how schools are supporting their pupils' additional needs far beyond those within the formally recognised SEND system: from housing and health challenges, to having a parent in prison, to dealing with bereavement and caring responsibilities.]

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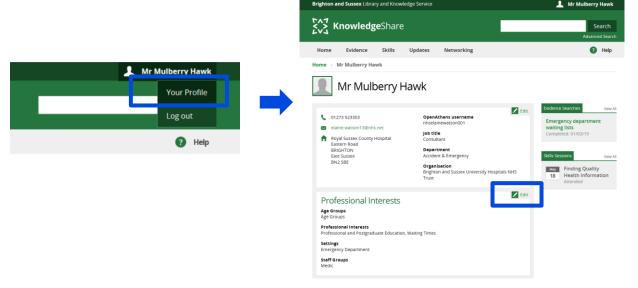
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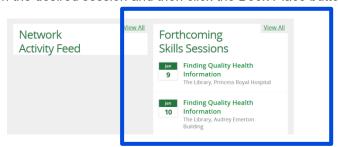
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