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Health & Social Care
Information Centre

Health and social care information sources – a guide for journalists

England 2014



Health and social care information sources – a guide for journalists

England 2014

The information in this guide was
correct at the time of publication.

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Foreword

A multitude of statistics covering health and social care can prove confusing for those attempting to shed light on latest trends and new developments. A directory that clearly signposts to the sources of these statistics is a necessity in order to use information efficiently and accurately.

Each year the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) publishes more than 220 statistical publications of high quality information relating to health and social care. We also work alongside other health organisations that collect health and social care information in England.

Our aim is to be England's trusted authoritative source of health and social care information. Although not exhaustive, this guide is intended to signpost a wide variety of health and social care data in a clear and user-friendly way.

The media is an important channel for communicating insight and understanding of health and social care. Statistics, alongside human stories, are the building blocks for producing material which engages both the public and professions. The guide should be useful to journalists, helping them identify the organisation that holds the information they need.

An online version of this guide will be updated throughout the year at: www.hscic.gov.uk/journalistinfo

Our press office is always happy to assist with any questions you may have. Its contact details are listed in Section 3 of this guide.



Kingsley Manning
Chair, Health and Social
Care Information Centre

Introduction

This directory is intended to be of great use to journalists, press officers and others with an interest in health and social care information.

If a journalist is looking to report on a specific health topic then he or she can scan through the list in **Section 1 – Index of health and social care information**, to find the subject area and topic they are interested in. The index signposts them towards the organisation that currently publishes this information.

Information from the following organisations is included:

- Health Education England
- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
- NHS Business Services Authority
- NHS Blood and Transplant
- NHS England
- Public Health England
- Skills for Care
- Care Quality Commission
- Department of Health
- Department for Education
- Health and Care Professions Council
- Health and Social Care Information Centre
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
- Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Office for National Statistics
- UK Clinical Trials Gateway
- Health Research Authority

More information about each of these bodies, including press office contact details, is listed in **Section 2 - Contributing organisations**.

In addition, details of other organisations who may be able to offer further insight into health and social care issues are listed in **Section 3 – Other information sources**.

Additional information about different types of NHS organisation are listed in **Section 4 – Quick definitions: types of NHS organisation**.

The information in this guide was correct at the time of publication (December 2013).

If you have any questions, please email our press office at or call 0845 257 6990.

Section 1

Index of health and social care information

Birth and maternity

Area	Topic	Organisation
Antenatal	Abortion	Department of Health
	Clinical guidelines and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Duration of antenatal stay	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Fertility rates	Office for National Statistics
	Health advice for pregnant women	Department of Health
	IVF (treatment cycles, pregnancy rates and birth rates)	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
	Pregnancy rates	Office for National Statistics
Births	Birth rates	Office for National Statistics
	Clinical guidelines and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Complications during delivery	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Congenital birth conditions	Office for National Statistics
	Number of hospital deliveries	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Method of and person conducting delivery (i.e. caesarean)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Still births	Office for National Statistics
	Use of anaesthetics during delivery	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Birth and maternity

Area	Topic	Organisation
Births	Fitness to practice hearings	Nursing and Midwifery Council
	Midwives (number registered)	Nursing and Midwifery Council
	Midwives (number working for NHS)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Postnatal	Breast feeding	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Duration of postnatal stay	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Children and young people

Area	Topic	Organisation
Healthy living	Child health profiles	Public Health England
	Fruit and vegetable consumption (5 a day)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Health Survey for England	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Public health guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Use and behaviour towards alcohol, cigarettes and illicit drugs	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Paediatric care	Child weight and obesity	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Immunisation	Health and Social Care Information Centre (annual information)
		Public Health England (quarterly information)
	Number of child hospital admissions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of paediatric specialists	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Deaths

Area	Topic	Organisation
Cause of death	-	Office for National Statistics
Death rates	-	Office for National Statistics
Hospital deaths	Summary Hospital Mortality Indicator	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Suicide rates	-	Office for National Statistics

Dentists

Area	Topic	Organisation
NHS dentists	Earnings and expenses	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Workforce	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Dental activity	Health and Social Care Information Centre
NHS dental practices	Prescribing by NHS dental practices	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Patients registered	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Facilities and transport

Area	Topic	Organisation
Ambulances	Number of ambulance calls, journeys and response times	Health and Social Care Information Centre (annual emergency calls and response times) NHS England (monthly ambulance quality indicators)
	Number of ambulance staff	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Quality indicators	NHS England
Building maintenance and environment	Non-clinical patient-led assessments	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Car parks	Hospital on-site parking (including available spaces)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Parking charges	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Catering	Amount of meals per site	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Cost of meals per patient	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Food waste	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Sites with on-site catering	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Finance and performance

Area	Topic	Organisation
Earnings	Average staff earnings	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Policy on staff pay	Department of Health
	Staff expenses	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Spending	Adult social care spending	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	National spending on facilities/resources	Department of Health
	National spending on drugs prescribed in primary care	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	National spending on primary care	Department of Health
	National spending on acute care	Department of Health
	Spending on drugs prescribed in hospitals	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Total NHS budget	Department of Health

General Practice

Area	Topic	Organisation
GPs	Earnings and expenses	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Workforce	Health and Social Care Information Centre
GP practices	Complaints about GP practices	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Financial investment (UK and national figures)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Opening hours	NHS England
	Quality and Outcomes Framework: achievement scores and exception reporting	Health and Social Care Information Centre
GP patients	Patients registered	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Referral to treatment	NHS England
	Survey of GP patients	NHS England

Hospitals

Area	Topic	Organisation
Car parking	Car parking charges	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Hospitals with on-site parking (including number of spaces)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Catering	Cost of meals per patient	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of sites with on-site catering	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Cleanliness	Inspections and findings	Care Quality Commission
	National cleanliness policy and guidelines	Department of Health
Patient treatment and activity	Accident and Emergency	Health and Social Care Information Centre (monthly and annual)
		NHS England (weekly)
	Critical care periods	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Delayed transfers	NHS England
	Diagnosis	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Elective and non-elective procedures	NHS England
	Hospital admissions by diagnosis and month	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Hospital deaths	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Non-clinical patient-led assessments	Health and Social Care Information Centre	

Hospitals

Area	Topic	Organisation
Patient treatment and activity	Outpatient appointments	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Staffing	Staff numbers	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Staff earnings	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Treatment and procedures	Cancelled procedures	NHS England
	Hospital prescribing	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Procedure errors	NHS England
	Procedures – number and type	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Wards	Average bed days	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Critical care bed capacity	NHS England
	Number of beds, availability and occupancy	NHS England
	Ward closures	Care Quality Commission

Immunisation

Area	Topic	Organisation
Advice on immunisation		Public Health England
Children	Tetanus, polio, MMR, diphtheria, pertussis, haemophilus influenzae type B, meningitis C	Public Health England (quarterly) Health and Social Care Information Centra (annual)
Flu (numbers vaccinated)		Public Health England
Holiday vaccinations		Public Health England
Seasonal flu		Public Health England

Independent sector

Area	Topic	Organisation
Independent sector	NHS admissions to the independent sector	Care Quality Commission
	NHS-commissioned hospital activity	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Review of care	Care Quality Commission

Information Technology

Area	Topic	Organisation
Information Technology	Cost of NHS IT	Department of Health
	NHS Choices	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of NHS computers and other IT equipment/ systems	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Policy on NHS IT	Department of Health

Infections

Area	Topic	Organisation
Animal-related (zoonotic) infections	Cases	Public Health England
Emerging infections	Cases	Public Health England
Hospital-related infections	Cases	Public Health England
	Clinical guidance, public health guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Deaths	Office for National Statistics
Infections	Clinical guidance, public health guidance	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Gastro-infections, measles, mumps, rubella, TB	Public Health England
Sexually transmitted infections	Cases	Public Health England
	Deaths	Office for National Statistics

Long-term conditions

Area	Topic	Organisation	
Cancer	Clinical guidelines and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence	
	Deaths	Office for National Statistics	
	Diagnosis rates and registrations	Office for National Statistics Cancer Registry	
	Hospital admission	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
	Prescribing and clinical guidance		National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (guidance)
			Health and Social Care Information Centre (activity)
	Prevalence	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
	Screening	Health and Social Care Information Centre (breast and cervical screening)	
	Survival rates	Office for National Statistics Cancer Registry	
	Treatment and outcomes		Health and Social Care Information Centre (audits on bowel, head and neck, lung and oesophago-gastric cancers)
National Cancer Intelligence Network (Prostate Cancer Audit)			
Waiting times for treatment	NHS England		

Long-term conditions

Area	Topic	Organisation
Diabetes	Complications and deaths	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Clinical guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Diagnosis rates	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Hospital admissions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Inpatient care	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prescribing	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prevalence	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Treatment targets and care processes	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Heart disease	Clinical guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Hospital admissions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Mortality	Office for National Statistics
	Prescribing	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Mental health

Area	Topic	Organisation
Mental health conditions	Attitudes to people with mental health conditions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Clinical guidelines and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Community team activity	NHS England
	Mental health of older people	Office for National Statistics
	Mental health of young people	Office for National Statistics
	Number of antidepressant prescriptions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of people subject to mental health legislation	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of people with mental health needs	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Self-harm: hospital admissions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Self-harm: young people survey	Office for National Statistics
Psychological therapy (IAPT)	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
Mental health surveys	Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Survey of mental health	Care Quality Commission

Older people

Area	Topic	Organisation
Care	Clinical guidance, social care guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Dementia assessment and referrals	NHS England
	Good practice guidance	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	More information	See also 'Social Care'
	Number in residential care	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number provided with home care	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Opticians

Area	Topic	Organisation
Number of eye tests	-	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Number of opticians	-	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Provision of NHS glasses/contact lenses	-	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Patients

Area	Topic	Organisation
Experience	Friends and Family Test	NHS England
	Mixed sex accommodation breaches	NHS England
	National patient experience overall measure	NHS England
	Patient-Led Assessment of the Care Environment (PLACE)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Surveys of inpatients, outpatients, maternity patients and community mental health	Care Quality Commission
	Written complaints	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Outcomes	NHS outcomes framework indicators	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Patient confidentiality	Guidance on confidentiality for health and social care organisations	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Permissions to use patient data for medical research purposes and medical non-research purposes	Health Research Authority
	Professional standards for health and social care staff	Professional regulatory bodies e.g. Royal College of General Practitioners, Royal College of Midwives

Patients

Area	Topic	Organisation
Safety	NHS Safety Thermometer (avoidable harm to patients)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Safety incidents	NHS England
Seasonal impacts	Flu surveillance	Public Health England
	Hospital admissions by diagnosis and month	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	NHS winter pressures	NHS England
	Winter related deaths	Office for National Statistics
Waiting for treatment	Accident and Emergency (including 4 hour standard)	NHS England (weekly) Health and Social Care Information Centre (monthly)
	Diagnostic tests	NHS England
	Referral to treatment	NHS England

Population

Area	Topic	Organisation
Births	-	Office for National Statistics
Deaths	-	Office for National Statistics
Life expectancy	-	Office for National Statistics
Official population figures	-	Office for National Statistics

Prescribing

Area	Topic	Organisation	
Community pharmacy	Number of pharmacies	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
	Number of services contracted including Medicine Use Reviews (MURs)	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
Medicines and technologies	Charge to patients	NHS Business Services Authority (Prescription Pricing Division)	
	Cost to NHS	Department of Health	
	Exemptions policy	Department of Health	
	Net Ingredient Cost of prescriptions	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
	Technology appraisals		National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (appraisals)
			Health and Social Care Information Centre (activity)
Pharmacies	Number of prescriptions dispensed in the community	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
	Net Ingredient Cost of prescriptions	Health and Social Care Information Centre	

Public health

Area	Topic	Organisation
Alcohol	Cost to NHS	Department of Health
	Deaths	Office for National Statistics
	Drinking behaviours and attitudes among young people	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Hospital admissions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of adults and young people in specialist alcohol treatment	Public Health England
	Prevalence of use	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prescriptions to treat addiction	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Public health guidance	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Recommended levels	Department of Health
	Related disease levels	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Blood and transplant	Blood donation and blood stocks	NHS Blood and Transplant
	Organ donation and transplantation	NHS Blood and Transplant
Drug misuse	Cost to NHS	Department of Health
	Deaths	Office for National Statistics
	Hospital admissions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Use levels	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Public health

Area	Topic	Organisation
	Number of adults and young people in structured drug treatment	Public Health England
	Prescriptions to treat addiction	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Public health guidance	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
Food and weight	Bariatric surgery levels	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Cost to NHS	Department of Health
	Deaths due to weight	Office for National Statistics
	Definitions and guidance – food	Food Standards Agency
	Definitions and guidance - weight	Department of Health
	Hospital admissions due to weight	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	National Child Measurement Programme (survey of weight of primary school children)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Obesity related diseases	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Population prevalence	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prescriptions to treat obesity	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Public health guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Public health

Area	Topic	Organisation
Health/life expectancy	Healthy life expectancy	Office for National Statistics
	Potential years of life lost	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Smoking	Cost to NHS	Department of Health
	Deaths	Office for National Statistics
	Hospital admissions	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	NHS Stop Smoking Services activity	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prescriptions to treat addiction	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prevalence of smoking during pregnancy	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prevalence of use	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Public health guidance	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Related diseases	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Sexual health

Area	Topic	Organisation
Contraception	Contraception clinic attendances	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Contraception issued by clinics	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Prevalence of contraception use	Office for National Statistics
	Public health guidance, clinical guidelines and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Deaths	Office for National Statistics
	Infection rates	Public Health England
	Public health guidance	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

Social care

Area	Topic	Organisation
Carers	Employers for carers	Department of Health
	Number of professional carers	Skills for Care
		Office for National Statistics (census)
	Number of service users in receipt of self-directed support or direct payments	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of unpaid carers assessed or reviewed and receiving services by social service departments	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of voluntary carers	Skills for Care
	Retention and recruitment of adult social care staff	Skills for Care
Survey of carers	Health and Social Care Information Centre	
Community/ home care	Number receiving home care	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	User experience of community care	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Learning disability	Census of inpatient care for those with learning disabilities	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Physical disability	Complaints from physically disabled inpatients	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Social care

Area	Topic	Organisation
Residential care	Number of adults receiving residential care	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of care homes for children and young people	Department for Education
	Number of children and young people receiving residential or foster care	Department for Education
	Number of residential care homes for older people	Care Quality Commission
Safeguarding	Abuse of vulnerable adults	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Cases of Guardianship	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of applications for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS)	Health and Social Care Information Centre
Social services	Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Number of families and children on social services register	Department for Education
	Number of people employed directly by social service departments	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Social care

Area	Topic	Organisation
	Number of social workers in England	Health and Social Care Information Centre (National Minimum Data Set)
		Health and Care Professions Council
	Social care guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	User experience of services funded by social service departments	Health and Social Care Information Centre

Workforce

Area	Topic	Organisation
Staff	Cost of staff wage to NHS	Department of Health
	Fitness to practice – nurses and midwives	Nursing and Midwifery Council
	Joiners and leavers	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Social care guidance and quality standards	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
	Staff from abroad	Department of Health
	Staff sickness rates	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Total staff working for NHS	Health and Social Care Information Centre
	Total registered nurses and midwives	Nursing and Midwifery Council
	Staff earnings	Average pay and expenses
Policy on pay		Department of Health
Training	Number of staff in training	Health Education England

Section 2

Contributing organisations

Contributing organisations

Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) was established on 1 April 2013 as an Executive Non Departmental Public Body (ENDPB). The trusted source of authoritative data and information relating to health and care, HSCIC plays a fundamental role in driving better care, better services and better outcomes for patients.

It supports the delivery of IT infrastructure, information systems and standards to ensure information flows efficiently and securely across the health and social care system to improve patient outcomes. Its work includes publishing more than 220 statistical publications annually; providing a range of specialist data services; managing informatics projects and programmes and developing and assuring national systems against appropriate contractual, clinical safety and information standards.

HSCIC press office

0845 257 6990 or

0113 2547120 or 0113 2547046

Urgent media calls

0845 257 6990

media@hscic.gov.uk

www.hscic.gov.uk

Twitter: [@hscicmedia](https://twitter.com/hscicmedia)

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DH) is a ministerial department, supported by 23 agencies and public bodies. The DH leads across health and care by creating national policies and legislation, providing the long-term vision and ambition to meet current and future challenges, putting health and care at the heart of government and being a global leader in health and care policy.

The DH supports the integrity of the health and care system by providing funding, assuring the delivery and continuity of services and accounting to Parliament in a way that represents the best interests of the patient, public and taxpayer.

The DH champions innovation and improvement by supporting research and technology, promoting honesty, openness and transparency, and instills an organisational culture that values compassion, dignity and the highest quality of care above everything.

DH press office

020 7210 5504

Out of hours

07050 073 581

www.dh.gov.uk

NHS England

NHS England (formerly known as the NHS Commissioning Board) is the new body which leads the NHS in England. Its main aim is to improve the health outcomes for people in England, and it will set the overall direction and priorities for the NHS as a whole.

NHS England press office

0113 825 0958 or 0113 825 0959

Out of hours

07768 901293

nhsengland.media@nhs.net

www.england.nhs.uk

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of all health and adult social care in England. It makes sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate high-quality care and encourages care services to improve. CQC monitors, inspects and regulates services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety and publishes its findings to help people choose care.

CQC press office

020 7448 9401

Urgent media calls

07917 232 143

media.team@cqc.org.uk

www.cqc.org.uk

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and is the recognised national statistical institute for the UK. It is responsible for collecting and publishing statistics related to the economy, population and society at national, regional and local levels. It also conducts the census in England and Wales every ten years. The ONS plays a leading role in national and international good practice in the production of official statistics. It is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority and although they are separate, they are still closely related.

ONS press office

0845 6041858

Out of hours

07867 906553

media.relations@ons.gsi.gov.uk

www.ons.gov.uk

Public Health England

Public Health England's mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities through working with national and local government, the NHS, industry and the voluntary and community sector. PHE is an operationally autonomous executive agency of the Department of Health.

Sender bodies that moved into PHE include the Health Protection Agency, National Treatment Agency, Public Health Observatories, UK National Screening Committee and NHS cancer and non-cancer screening programmes, Cancer Registries, Quality Assurance Reference Centres, Strategic Health Authorities, Specialised Commissioners and parts of the Department of Health, including Public Health Marketing.

PHE has press offices for different areas of work:

PHE press office

020 7654 8306

Urgent media calls

0208 200 4400

phe-pressoffice@phe.gov.uk

PHE press office email for infectious diseases, biological standards and corporate enquiries (Colindale) and for emergency preparedness and response (Porton):

colindale-pressoffice@phe.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/phe

Health Education England

Health Education England (HEE) exists for one reason: to improve the quality of care delivered to patients. Through Local Education and Training Boards (LETBs), it ensures that our workforce has the right skills, values and behaviours, in the right numbers, at the right time and in the right place.

hee.communications@nhs.net

<http://hee.nhs.uk>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is the independent body responsible for driving improvement and excellence in the health and social care system. NICE develops guidance, standards and information on high-quality health and social care. It also advises on ways to promote healthy living and prevent ill health.

Formerly the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, its name changed on 1 April 2013 to reflect new and additional responsibility to develop guidance and set quality standards for social care, as outlined in the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

The aim of NICE is to help practitioners deliver the best possible care and give people the most effective treatments, which are based on the most up-to-date evidence and provide value for money, in order to reduce inequalities and variation. NICE products and resources are produced for the NHS, local authorities, care providers, charities, and anyone who has a responsibility for commissioning or

providing healthcare, public health or social care services.

NICE press office

0845 003 7782

Urgent media calls

07775 583 813

pressoffice@nice.org.uk

www.nice.org.uk

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT)

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is a joint England and Wales Special Health Authority. Its remit includes the provision of a reliable, efficient supply of blood and associated services to the NHS in England and North Wales. It is also the organ donor organisation for the UK and is responsible for matching and allocating donated organs.

NHSBT press office

01923 367 600

Urgent media calls out of hours

0117 969 2444

pressoffice@nhsbt.nhs.uk

www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

The HFEA is the UK's independent regulator overseeing the use of gametes and embryos in fertility treatment and research. It licenses fertility clinics and centres carrying out in vitro fertilisation (IVF), other assisted conception procedures and human embryo research. It is usually your first port of call about queries relating to IVF and fertility.

HFEA press office

020 7291 8226

Urgent media calls out of hours

07771 981 920

press.office@hfea.gov.uk

www.hfea.gov.uk

Skills for Care

Skills for Care is the employer-led strategic body for workforce development in adult social care in England, which is licensed jointly with its UK allies by UKCES to be the 'Skills for Care and Development' Sector Skills Council (SSC). The alliance was licensed by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in 2005. Until April 2005, Skills for Care was called Topss England.

Skills for Care ensures that England's adult social care workforce has the appropriately skilled people in the

right places working to deliver high quality social care. To achieve this, we focus on the attitudes, values, skills and qualifications people need to undertake their roles.

Skills for Care forms a strategic overview of workforce needs in adult social care, which accounts for nearly 1.68 million workers, spread over 49,700 establishments employing care staff. Skills for Care board members are drawn from groups representing public, private and voluntary sector care employers, along with representatives of staff, trainers, service users and informal carers. Social care includes residential care, domiciliary care and social work with all its specialisms.

Skills for Care press office

0113 241 1297

paul.clarke@skillsforcare.org.uk

www.skillsforcare.org.uk

Health and Care Professions Council

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) is an independent, UK-wide health and care regulator set up to protect the public. The HCPC keeps a register for 16 different health and care professions and only registers people who meet the standards it sets for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

The HCPC will take action against professionals who do not meet these standards and can prosecute those who pretend to be registered.

HCPC press office

020 7840 9806

press@hcpc-uk.org

www.hpc-uk.org

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

We are the nursing and midwifery regulator for the UK. We exist to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the public. We set standards of education, training, conduct and performance for nurses and midwives, and hold the register of those who have qualified and meet those standards. We provide guidance to

help nurses and midwives keep their skills and knowledge up to date and uphold our professional standards. We have clear and transparent processes to investigate and deal with nurses and midwives who fall short of our standards.

NMC press office

020 7681 5936 or 020 7681 5649

media@nmc-uk.org

www.nmc-uk.org

Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for education and children's services in England. The DfE works to achieve a highly educated society in which opportunity is equal for children and young people, no matter what their background or family circumstances. The DfE is a ministerial department with 3 executive agencies: Education Funding Agency (EFA), Standards and Testing Agency (STA) and the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL)

DfE press office

020 7783 8300

www.education.gov.uk

NHS Business Services Authority

The NHSBSA is a Special Health Authority (SHA) which operates as an Arms Length Body (ALB) of the Department of Health (DH). Our role is to provide a range of critical central services to NHS organisations, NHS contractors, NHS patients and the general public. These include dispensing payments to pharmacists, NHS dentist's payments; the NHS pension scheme; Help with Health Cost schemes; and administration of the European Health Insurance Card. We also manage delivery of the NHS Supply Chain contract.

NHS BSA press office

020 7895 4524

Urgent media calls out of hours
07717 851926

james.robertson@nhsprotect.gsi.gov.uk

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Health Research Authority (HRA)

The HRA was established in December 2011 to protect and promote the interests of patients and the public in health research, and to streamline the regulation of research.

Many members of the public want the opportunity to participate in research. The Health Research Authority make sure that health research involving them is ethically reviewed and approved, that people are provided with the information they need to help them decide whether they wish to take part, and that their opportunity to do so is maximised by simplifying the processes by which high quality research is assessed. In doing this, we will help to build both public confidence and participation in health research, and so improve the nation's health.

HRA press office

0207 972 2609

hra.comms@nhs.net

www.hra.nhs.uk

Section 3

Other information sources

Other UK countries

If the information you need is not included in this guide it is possible it is collected regionally.

For information on health and social care in other UK countries contact:

Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Press office number
028 90520 500

www.nisassembly.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Social Care Council

028 9041 7600

info@niscc.hscni.net
www.niscc.info

Scotland

The Scottish Government

Press office number
0131 244 0173

sp.media@scottish.parliament.uk
www.scottish.parliament.uk

Scottish Social Services Council

01382 207261

nicola.gilray@sssc.uk.com
www.sssc.uk.com

Wales

The Welsh Government

Press office number
02920 898012 or 02920 898131

<http://wales.gov.uk>

Care Council Wales

Contact number: 0300 30 33 444

info@ccwal-es.org.uk
www.ccwales.org.uk

Professional bodies

Other organisations often carry out research and can provide spokespeople on specialist subjects. They include (this list is not exhaustive):

British Dental Association (BDA)

Press office number: 020 7563 4565

media.parliamentary@bda.org
www.bda.org

British Medical Association (BMA)

Press office numbers:
0207 383 6254 or 0207 383 6403

mediaoffice@bma.org.uk
www.bma.org.uk

Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)

Press office number: 020 3188 7575
Out of hours: 020 3188 7659

press@rcgp.org.uk
www.rcgp.org.uk

Royal College of Midwives (RCM)

Press office number: 020 7312 3456

pressofficer@rcm.org.uk
www.rcm.org.uk

Royal College of Nursing (RCN)

020 7647 3633

Press office numbers:
press.office@rcn.org.uk
www.rcn.org.uk

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)

Press office numbers:
020 7772 6357 or 020 7772 6300
Out of hours: 07986 183 167

ncourtenay-luck@rcog.org.uk
cwalsh@rcog.org.uk
www.rcog.org.uk

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)

Press office numbers:
0207 092 6067 or 0207 092 6005

press.office@rcpch.ac.uk
lauren.snaith@rcpch.ac.uk
www.rcpch.ac.uk

Professional bodies

Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath)

Press office number: 020 7451 6752

Out of hours: 07772 686 022

samantha.jayaram@rcpath.org

www.rcpath.org

Royal College of Physicians (RCP)

Press office number:

020 3075 1254 or 020 3075 1468

Out of hours: 07896 416 409

www.rcplondon.ac.uk

Royal College of Psychiatrists

Press office numbers:

020 7235 2351 ext. 2544 or 2538

Out of hours:

07738 349 070 or 07776 237 145

www.rcpsych.ac.uk

Royal College of Surgeons (RCS)

Working hours:

020 7869 6047 or 020 7869 6052

Out of hours: 07966 486 832

communications@rcseng.ac.uk

www.rcseng.ac.uk

Charities

Diabetes

Diabetes UK

Press office number: 0207 424 1165

Out of hours: 07711 176028

press@diabetes.org.uk

www.diabetes.org.uk

Mental health

Mind

Press office number: 0208 522 1743

Out of hours: 07850 788514

media@mind.org.uk

www.mind.org.uk

Cancer

Cancer Research UK

Press office number: 0207 061 8300

Out of hours: 07050 264 059

pressoffice@cancer.org.uk

www.cancerresearchuk.org

Heart and circulation

British Heart Foundation

Press office number: 020 7554 0164

Out of hours: 07764 290381

www.bhf.org.uk

www.heartstats.org

Section 4

Quick definitions: types of NHS organisation

Types of NHS organisations

The NHS

The NHS employs more than 1.7m people. Of those, just under half are clinically qualified, including, 39,780 general practitioners (GPs), 370,327 nurses, 18,687 ambulance staff and 105,711 hospital and community health service (HCHS) medical and dental staff.

The Department of Health (DH) is in overall charge of the NHS with a cabinet minister reporting as secretary of state for health to the prime minister. The department has control of England's Local Authorities (LAs), which oversee all NHS activities in England. In turn, each LA is responsible for the strategic supervision of all the NHS trusts in its area. The devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland run their local NHS services separately.

The NHS in England has undergone some big changes, many of which came into action on April 1st 2013. Changes to the NHS structure include the abolition of primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) and the introduction of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and Healthwatch England.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) manage primary care services in the community, including care from GPs, dentists, pharmacists, NHS walk-in centres and the NHS Direct phone line service. There are currently 211 CCGs in England. CCGs work with local authorities and other agencies that provide health and social care locally to make sure the local community's needs are being met. CCGs are now at the centre of the NHS and control 80 per cent of the NHS budget.

All GP practices belong to a CCG which will commission most services on behalf of patients, including emergency care, community care, planned hospital care and mental health and learning disability services in their local areas. CCGs took over this role from Primary Care Trusts which ceased to exist as of 1 April 2013.

Local Area Teams (LATs)

Local Area Teams (LATs) work alongside CCGs to commission services for their local communities which was formerly the duty of PCTs and SHAs.

There are currently 25 LATs across England and these have taken on direct commissioning responsibilities for GP services, dental services, pharmacy, and certain aspects of optical services, while some LATs lead on specialised commissioning across England. A smaller number of LATs carry out the direct commissioning of other services, such as military and prison health.

Acute trusts

Hospitals are managed by acute trusts, which make sure that hospitals provide high-quality healthcare and that they spend their money efficiently. They also decide on a strategy for how the hospital will develop so that services improve.

Acute trusts employ a large part of the NHS workforce: including nurses, doctors, pharmacists, midwives and health visitors, as well as people doing jobs related to medicine; physiotherapists, radiographers, podiatrists, speech and language therapists, counsellors, occupational therapists, psychologists and healthcare scientists. There are many other non-medical staff employed by acute trusts, including receptionists, porters, cleaners, specialists in information technology, managers, engineers, caterers and domestic and security staff.

Some acute trusts are regional or national centres for more specialised care. Others are attached to universities and help to train health professionals. Acute trusts can also provide services in the community, for example through health centres, clinics or in people's homes.

For a list of all acute trusts, see: www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories/Pages/AcuteTrustListing.aspx

Ambulance trusts

There are currently 11 ambulance services covering England, providing emergency access to healthcare. The NHS is also responsible for providing transport to get many patients to hospital for treatment and in many areas it is the ambulance trust that provides this service.

Care trusts

Care trusts are organisations that work in both health and social care. They may carry out a range of services, including social care, mental health services or primary care services. Care trusts are set up when the NHS and local authorities agree to work together, usually where it is felt that a closer relationship between health and social care is needed or would benefit local care services.

Clinical senates and strategic clinical networks

Clinical senates and strategic clinical networks have formed across the country to support and advise NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Clinical senates are advisory groups of experts from across health and social care and are formed by clinical leaders from across the healthcare system, as well as those from social care and public health.

Strategic clinical networks are advisory groups of clinical experts covering a particular disease group, patient group or professional group. There are currently 12 senates and 12 clinical networks covering areas across England.

Foundation trusts

Foundation trusts are a new type of NHS hospital run by local managers, staff and members of the public, which are tailored to the needs of the local population. Foundation trusts are free from central government control and have been given much more financial and operational freedom than other NHS trusts, although they remain within the NHS and its performance inspection system.

Mental health trusts

There are currently 58 mental health trusts covering England, 41 of which have reached foundation trust status. Mental health trusts provide health and social care services for people with mental health problems. More specialist care is normally provided by mental health trusts or local council social services departments. Services range from psychological therapy or community and family support through to very specialist medical and training services for people with severe mental health problems.

NHS Trust Development Authority (NHS TDA)

The National Trust Development Authority (TDA) are responsible for overseeing the performance management and governance of NHS trusts, including clinical quality, and managing their progress towards foundation trust status. The TDA safeguards the core values of the NHS and ensures a fair and comprehensive service across England.

Special health authorities

Special health authorities are health authorities that provide a health service to the whole of England, not just to a local community, for example NHS Blood and Transplant. They have been set up to provide a national service to the NHS or the public. They are independent, but can be subject to ministerial direction like other NHS bodies.

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this guide or to suggest topics
for inclusion in future editions,
contact the Health and Social Care
Information Centre press office:
0845 257 6990
media@hscic.gov.uk
Twitter: @hscicmedia

