



Adult
and
Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Extension to expiry date of antiviral medication](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has updated its guidance on the expiry date of Lagevrio (molnupiravir), the Covid-19 oral antiviral medication, extending expiry dates following assessment by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).



Care Homes/Care at Home

[Updated pharmaceutical professional standards for homecare services](#)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has updated the Professional Standards for Homecare Standards, which provides a framework to support teams involved in planning, commissioning and delivering homecare services, and aims to ensure consistent, high quality care for patients receiving medicines and associated services in the comfort of their own homes that would previously have been supplied in hospitals.

Disabilities

[Chair appointed to Independent Review of Adult Disability Payment](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed the appointment of Edel Harris OBE as chair of the Independent Review of Adult Disability Payment. The Review will consider people's experiences of the Scottish benefit to ensure it continues to meet the needs of disabled people. An interim report will be completed by September 2024, highlighting initial priorities capable of early action, before submitting a final report by June 2025.

Infection Prevent and Control

[Guidance for adult social care to reduce the spread of viral acute respiratory infections \(ARIs\) \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's UK Health Security Agency and Department of Health and Social Care has published guidance on infection prevention and control measures to reduce the spread of viral acute respiratory infections (ARIs), including Covid-19, in adult social care settings. The guidance applies to adult social providers, managers of adult social care services and adult social care staff, and sets out the measures that can help to reduce the spread of viral acute respiratory infections, including Covid-19.

Justice

[Research on justice social work system and future within the National Care Service](#)

A research report has been published by the Scottish Government of work by IPSOS Scotland Professor Beth Weaver exploring the views of Justice Social Work (JSW) staff, partners and people experiencing the justice system about its strengths and weaknesses, and asks their views on potential inclusion within a future National Care Service (NCS). Strengths and challenges identified by the research include the dual remit of JSW, funding and resources, partnership working, leadership and governance, and delivering for clients. In relation to the NCS, participants reportedly wish for more detail on the vision and plans for the potential inclusion of JSW.



Mental Health

[New crime of encouraging or assisting another person to self-harm in effect](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that a new offence which makes it a crime to encourage or assist another person to self-harm comes into effect in Scotland as of 31 January 2024. The aim of the new crime is as a deterrent to anyone who sets out to deliberately encourage others to self-harm and to create a safer online environment, particularly for people who may be in distress and looking for help on the internet. The offence can be committed online, in correspondence or publications, or in-person and applies regardless of whether an individual goes on to injure themselves or not. Anyone found guilty of this crime can face up to five years in prison.

Older People

[Dogs may assist with healthy ageing](#)

Age UK is highlighting the benefits of having a dog in your life, with research that reportedly shows dogs trigger owners to be more physically active, to meet and chat more often with others, and to have more contact with nature, which are all habits that aid healthy ageing. The blog also lists charities that can support older people who find pet care a challenge and alternative ways to enjoy the benefits of dog ownership.

Other Health and Social Care

[Data report on fitness to practise](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published a report on its fitness to practise data, which reportedly shows the majority of the 170,313 people on the register practise safely and effectively, as on average only 1.1% of registrants are investigated each year. The report also shows that the length of time taken to close fitness to practise referrals is reducing and takes on average 5.4 months, and that inappropriate behaviour at work is the most frequent type of behaviour the SSSC investigates.

[Progress of Hospital at Home services](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has published a progress update for Hospital at Home services which provide short-term hospital level care in a person's home. HIS has been working with Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) and NHS boards to expand Hospital at Home across Scotland, and comparing December 2022 to December 2023 there has been a 51% increase in patients managed by Hospital at Home services (1,070 people in 2022 compared with 1,619 people in 2023).



[Updated professional standards for doctors](#)

The General Medical Council has issued updated professional standards for doctors, which details the principles, values and standards expected of doctors. Updates have been made in five key areas: creating respectful, fair and compassionate workplaces; promoting patient centred care; helping to tackle discrimination; championing fair and inclusive leadership; and supporting continuity of care and safe delegation.

Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning adults and health.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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