

NATIONAL TRACKER MARCH 9 2017 – MAY 10 2017

Chemists are taking the Government to the High Court over planned cuts of £321million in community pharmacy funding, arguing that elderly, disabled and ethnic communities would be disproportionately affected. (Sunday Mirror 11/3/17)

About half of the £2bn of extra cash allocated in George Osborne's pre-2015 election autumn statement was spent on buying care from private and other non-NHS providers, an analysis has shown.

The report also found that £1 in every £8 of local commissioners' budgets in England is now spent on care provided by non-NHS organisations. The Health Foundation said the figures showed NHS providers have not had the capacity to deal with rising demand. **(Guardian 26 March 2017)**

Next month, NHS England will start reviewing 10 items that it says are "ineffective, unnecessary [and] inappropriate for prescription on the NHS, or indeed unsafe", which together cost the service £128m a year. The Department of Health is expected to then issue new guidance advising GPs that they are not prescribed.

They include omega 3 and fish oils; the painkiller fentanyl; lidocaine medicated plasters; a tablet used to treat high blood pressure called doxazosin MR; and a drug called tadalafil, which is used to treat erectile dysfunction, along with gluten-free foods and travel vaccines. **(Guardian March 30)**

NHS England data showed nearly a hundred practices closed in 2016. Of the 92 practices that shut, 58 did so completely, while 34 merged with other local surgeries in order to pool resources.

The drop in GP numbers meant 265,000 patients – an increase of 150% from 2014 – had to change their practice last year, often travelling further for care. **(7 /4/17 Guardian)**

The number of strokes in the UK is expected to increase by almost half over the next 20 years owing to the ageing population.

Over the same period, the number of stroke survivors is predicted to rise by a third, raising questions about how the already stretched NHS and social care services will cope.

Alexis Wieroniewy, deputy director of policy and influencing at the [Stroke Association](#), said: "Most strokes are preventable and everyone can take steps to lower their risk of stroke as they get older. Obesity can increase your risk of stroke by at least 64%. However, simple lifestyle changes like eating healthier meals, taking regular exercise and stopping smoking, along with checking your blood pressure regularly, can greatly reduce your risk." **(Guardian 11 May)**

Global cyber-attack hits 40 NHS trusts in England and Scotland, compromising IT systems that underpin patient safety. The cyber-attack affected 40 NHS trusts in England and 11 health boards and the ambulance service in Scotland.

(Guardian 12/5/17)

Theresa May said there was “no evidence” that NHS patient records had been compromised. **(13 May Guardian)**