

March 2019



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Hello,

Well, February was quite a month.

Over the course of just 28 days, Swindon not only received its yearly helping of snow and ice, but was also treated to an early glimpse of spring, with temperatures at the end of the month hitting 20 degrees in some parts of the town.

It was definitely a month of two halves, and we hope that you were able to get out and make the most of both the cold and mild weather.

As we begin this new month, we are pleased to welcome Tracey Cox as the new Chief Executive of Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire CCGs.

Having a single Chief Executive of all three organisations will not only help to deliver ongoing improvements in local healthcare, but will also ensure the continued integration of health and care services across the region remains a top priority.

Readers with some knowledge of the local NHS will recognise Tracey from her most recent role as Accountable Officer at Bath and North East Somerset CCG.

Speaking about her new role, which came into effect on Friday 1 March, Tracey said: "It's now more important than ever before for health and care providers to work in a joined-up and seamlessly integrated manner.

"Where it makes sense, we will work collaboratively to deliver health and care improvements for a larger population across the region."

In the coming weeks, a single management structure between the three CCGs will be established, and we'll be able to provide more details of this in a future edition of News-Bites.

However, anybody keen to find more information on Tracey's new role, and what it means for healthcare in Swindon, should head to the CCG website: www.swindonccg.nhs.uk.

We know it can be tricky staying on top of the changes that are constantly happening within the NHS so, if you have any questions, please send them through and we'll do our best to provide a bit of clarity.

Until next time, stay healthy and happy!

Reassurance on medicine availability after Brexit

The government is working with pharmaceutical companies, suppliers and the NHS to make sure patients continue to receive the medication they need after March 29, should the UK leave the European Union without an agreed continuity deal.

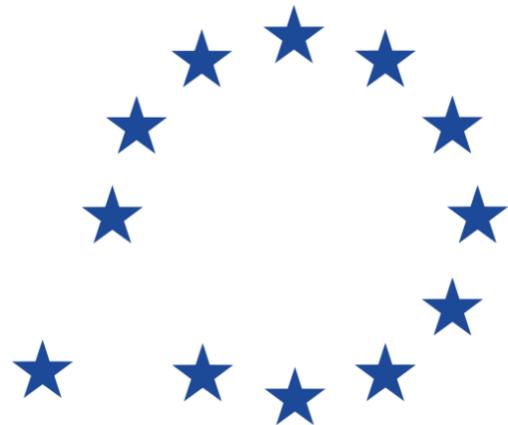
Around three quarters of the medicines, and more than half the devices and one-use medical products, such as syringes, that the NHS uses come into the UK via the EU.

The government has analysed the supply chain, made plans to reduce the risk of disruption, and given instructions to pharmaceutical companies to ensure they have adequate stocks to cope with any potential delays at the border.

Away from Brexit, it is not uncommon for the NHS to experience temporary shortages of specific medicines and, when this happens, professionals use their knowledge and expertise to prescribe the best alternatives.

This is a tried and tested system.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Supporting young patients with hidden disabilities

The Great Western Hospital has become the first in the country to pilot an innovative scheme that offers extra support to young patients with a hidden disability.

Since the beginning of February, children visiting the hospital with a condition that has no visible symptoms, such as autism, bipolar disorder and epilepsy, have been offered a bespoke sunflower lanyard to wear which makes staff aware that they have a hidden disability.

Developed in partnership with Swindon SEND Families Voice, a local forum for parents of children with disabilities, the scheme has already been warmly received by families across Swindon, many of whom spend days, and sometimes weeks, preparing their little one for a trip to hospital.

[Click here](#) to read more about how the lanyards are making a difference.



Preparing for Adulthood Transition Roadshow

Hold the date for the next Preparing for Adulthood Transition Roadshow, which is taking place on Wednesday 19 June.

Now in its third year, the event is an opportunity for families with children approaching adulthood to learn more about how care will change once they reach their eighteenth birthday.

Taking place at Swindon Borough Council's Civic Offices in Euclid Street, the event is run on a drop-in basis, with parents able to visit any of the stalls providing information between 12pm and 5pm.



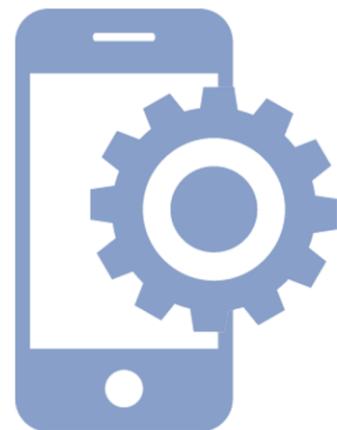
NHS app comes to Swindon

GP practices in Swindon will be connected to the new NHS app from Monday 4 March.

After this date, patients registered at any of the 23 practices in Swindon and Shrivenham will be able to access an A to Z of conditions and treatments, view personal medical records, order repeat prescriptions and book or cancel appointments.

The NHS app is another way in which patients can access more services, that would have previously required a visit or phone call to their practice, online.

Find out more about the app by [clicking here](#).



Take part in survey on diabetes education

Swindon CCG is encouraging patients with diabetes to complete a short online survey about the structured education courses available in Swindon.

People can take part by [clicking here](#).

The survey will be active until the end of March and will help the CCG make improvements to the way people with diabetes learn more about the condition.



For your information and interest

- The CCG's Medicines Optimisation team have kindly asked for people to spend a few minutes to complete a short online survey regarding the disposal of unwanted medicines.

Led by a team from the University of Portsmouth, the survey asks questions on personal habits when it comes to getting rid of medicines no longer being used.

All submissions are anonymous.

[Click here](#) to take part.

- The cost of an NHS prescription will increase by 20p to £9 from Monday 1 April 2019.

There will also be price increases in line with inflation for people who receive wigs and fabric supports through the NHS.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Governing Body

The next meeting of Swindon CCG's Governing Body will take place on Thursday 28 March.

Minutes and papers of previous meetings can be found by [clicking here](#).

If you would like to attend, please send an email to communications@swindonccg.nhs.uk.

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