



Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare

Wednesday 27 August 2025, Issue 3

Welcome to this month's bulletin providing news and information for NHS staff and learners, helping you to make the most of your NHS knowledge and library services for lifelong learning, research, innovation and everyday decision making.

Find out more about the work of the [national NHS Knowledge and Library Services team](#) or take a look at [Knowledge for Healthcare](#).

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A message from Louise Goswami, Chief Knowledge Officer, NHS England



August can be a stressful time for many awaiting to hear results of exams and planning their next steps in shaping future careers. As many young people confirm places on health-related university courses and start apprenticeships we would like to welcome you all and encourage you to make the most of your [NHS Knowledge and Library Services](#) whilst you are on placement or studying whilst “on-the-job”.

Did you know that NHS librarians can help you to enhance your study skills? We provide information skills training tailored to your needs helping you to make good use of the [Knowledge and Library Hub](#).

We also have E-Learning modules about [how to search the literature effectively](#) and [critically read a research paper](#).

Don't forget to check-out the [NHS Knowledge Mobilisation Framework](#) for some tools and techniques to help you learn before during and after all you do.

Knowledge and Library Services News

Health literacy and patient information: Over 170 NHS knowledge and library staff equipped to deliver accredited health literacy training

Nearly half the adults in England, 43%, struggle to read and understand health information. When that information includes words and numbers, that rises to 61%.

This means important details, such as how to take medicines and dosage, understanding appointment letters and test results can be missed – and not everyone feels confident to say when they don't understand.

Better presentation of information and some simple communication techniques can really help people to make better informed choices about their care and treatment.

We are pleased to announce that over 170 knowledge and library specialists are trained to deliver Royal Society for Public Health accredited health literacy training. They have already trained thousands of NHS staff. [Contact your local NHS knowledge and library service](#) to find out more.

You can also [access Health Literacy E-Learning](#) to help you learn easy-to-use techniques to improve communication, supporting the understanding of the people you treat and care for. As a result, patients, families and carers will be able to make better health and wellbeing choices.

Coming up: Health Literacy Month

National Health Literacy month is in October, highlighting the importance of clear communication in healthcare. Look out for opportunities to learn more about health literacy during this month. Why not [contact your local NHS knowledge and library service](#) to see how you can work together to raise awareness?

Resource of the month: TRIP Pro and AskTrip

[TRIP](#) is a clinical search engine that gives you quick and easy access to high quality research evidence. Use your NHS OpenAthens account to unleash the power of [TRIP Pro](#) and [AskTrip](#), a cutting-edge clinical question and answer service. Using AI and large language models, AskTrip searches the trusted resources in the TRIP database to deliver rapid and fully referenced answers to clinical questions.

BMJ Best Practice and state-of-the-art care for asthma in adults webinar

[Join us for an insightful online webinar](#) designed to enhance your approach to adult asthma management using [BMJ Best Practice](#).

[BMJ Best Practice](#) is an award winning clinical decision support tool funded nationally by NHS England for all health and care staff. It provides step by step guidance on diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Log in to the web or app versions with your NHS OpenAthens account to access the latest evidence, including the unique Comorbidities Manager, to support whole-patient care.

Date: Thursday 4 September 2025

Time: 2pm to 3pm

Platform: Microsoft Teams

About the Webinar: In this session, our expert speakers will guide you through leveraging BMJ Best Practice to provide outstanding care for adult patients with asthma. We will delve into practical strategies and address common challenges in clinical practice.

Speakers:

- **Dr Kieran Walsh, Clinical Director, BMJ**
- **Dr Onyeka Umerah, Consultant Respiratory Physician and BMJ Best Practice Author**

Learning Outcomes:

- Challenges in implementing evidence-based medicine in the management of asthma
- Managing comorbidities in patients with asthma
- The role of patient information
- Common pitfalls in management and how to overcome them

Who Should Attend?

This webinar is ideal for healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and medical students, who care for adult patients with asthma.

[Register your place now](#)

Have you got your NHS OpenAthens key to unlock knowledge resources?

To make the most of the core collection of e-books, e-journals, databases and clinical decision support tools check you have an active NHS OpenAthens account.

[Sign-up here](#) or [refresh your password](#)



Search, find, read with the [NHS Knowledge and Library Hub](#)

Partnership Perfection: Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) licence

Did you know that the NHS is treated as a single organisation for sharing published content purchased by individual organisations within the NHS in England? This is all thanks to a partnership with the [Copyright Licensing Agency](#).

As a result of treating the NHS as one organisation, NHS knowledge and library services can access and supply from journals and [most books](#) purchased by individual NHS organisations across England:

- two articles from a single issue of a journal (or as many articles as required from an issue if on the same theme).
- up to one chapter or 5% of a book (whichever is greater).
- single digital and paper copies may be made for patients and carers.
- scanned and digital copies may be stored on an intranet or secure network, but not within an indexed and searchable centralised database.

There is also a “plus” to the definitions of the NHS, as NHS staff can share content under the licence, such

as articles for a joint research project, with [collaboration partners](#).

The licence for the NHS does not permit use of copyrighted content within Artificial Intelligence tools. If you are undertaking non-commercial research within the NHS, there is [a separate exemption that allows text and data mining](#) of copyrighted content.

Spotlight on the Knowledge for Healthcare Learning Academy information skills E-Learning modules

Why not set yourself a sprint-learning challenge this Autumn and dip into some of the 20 to 30 minute learning modules from NHS Knowledge and Library Services? These help you to develop and maintain essential information, knowledge mobilisation and health literacy skills. All are delivered as part of the employer-led centre of excellence Knowledge for Healthcare Learning Academy.

The modules have been designed with expert input from subject matter experts, such as NHS librarians, and are freely available for you to dip into or follow sequentially to build your knowledge base.

[Literature searching.](#) These modules help to build confidence to search published literature for articles and evidence relevant for your work, study and research. Each module takes under 20 minutes to complete and covers a basic introduction to searching science. They offer advice on developing a search strategy with tips on how to narrow and broaden search results and information on how to use subject headings.

[Critically Appraising the Evidence Base.](#) The 8 modules introduce concepts of critical appraisal and health inequalities. They help you to apply critical appraisal techniques to evaluate and apply research to your practice. There is detailed information in how to undertake critical appraisal of various study types such as systematic reviews or qualitative studies.

The final module introduces a range of critical appraisal tools.

[NHS Knowledge Mobilisation Framework](#). This framework helps you to use tools and techniques to mobilise and manage knowledge. Use the 11 modules to find tools to help you learn before, during and after everything you do. To collaborate, capture, share and re-use knowledge so that pitfalls can be avoided and best practice replicated.

[Health Literacy](#). Find 30 minutes to increase your knowledge and understanding of health literacy. Learn how to use simple techniques including TeachBack, chunk and check, pictures and simple language to improve how you communicate and check understanding with others.

Quality, Improvement and Impact: NHS knowledge and library specialists bringing the evidence you need to inform your decisions: Workforce Planning and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

To inform some workforce modelling, a workforce planning lead asked the librarian for an evidence review on the impact of technological advances in Artificial Intelligence on workforce planning and role redesign for the future.

The evidence review has helped to guide workforce modelling for the Trust up to 2028.

“This gave me the confidence to project that the organisation’s workforce trajectory would remain on its current course – steady growth – and that any expected changes were more likely to augment roles rather than replace them.”

Will Thornton, Lead for Workforce Planning and Development, York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Find out more about [#AMillionDecisions](#) or watch our [short animation about how NHS Knowledge and Library Services give The Gift of Time](#)

The NHS launches new WhatsApp Channel

NHS England has launched an official NHS WhatsApp Channel to share trusted health information directly with the public.



The Channel will include short, visual messages on:

- public health campaigns (e.g. flu, COVID-19)
- health alerts and seasonal advice
- key NHS updates and announcements
- myth-busting and fact-checking content

The NHS WhatsApp team will also encourage people to forward content onto family and friends within the app.

If you're reading this message on your phone, simply tap [here](#) to follow the NHS WhatsApp channel.

And if you're reading from another device, search for 'NHS' under the 'Updates' tab directly in WhatsApp.

Got a story or idea for the channel? Contact the NHS WhatsApp Channel editors at england.social@nhs.net

How to contact your local NHS Knowledge and Library

You can [find details of your local NHS knowledge and library service](#)

Once you've found your service, give them a ring or drop them an email to find out about membership and availability of local NHS knowledge and library services, including help in finding and using resources.

If this bulletin has been forwarded to you...

Our monthly bulletin provides news and information for NHS staff and learners, helping you to make the most of your NHS knowledge and library services for lifelong learning, research, innovation and everyday decision making.

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