



## Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare

Wednesday 24 September 2025, Issue 4

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 service 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**



Last week I had the pleasure of speaking to NHS knowledge and library colleagues about the 10 Year Health Plan. As I prepared, it became apparent that the skills and expertise of knowledge specialists will be vital to underpin the ambition outlined in the plan.

Activities linked to the 3 shifts; hospital to community; analogue to digital and treatment to prevention will need to be evidence-based so learning can be spread and adopted quickly elsewhere and pitfalls avoided – knowledge specialists have the expertise to deliver this.

There is a need to draw-upon evidence from research as well as knowledge of good practice, identifying what is working well elsewhere and capturing learning from what did not go so well. This all needs to be mobilised and applied to suit local circumstances, feeding into quality care outcomes and continuous learning health systems.

I was interested to see the importance of providing an appropriate location for self-directed learning highlighted within the [Getting the basics right for resident doctors: 10 Point Plan](#).

I am often asked if, with the growing availability of digital knowledge resources, there is still a need for a physical library space. In a busy health environment, library spaces are often the only place where staff can undertake self-directed learning. Library spaces are also regularly used for collaborative work and to drive innovation.

Recommendations within the [Learning Space within NHS Knowledge and Library Services in England](#) policy help to guide the development of library spaces which, and like much in the 10 Point Plan, benefit all NHS staff.

## AI FAQs evaluating current and emerging technologies

Artificial Intelligence and Large Language Models have the potential to transform the way we live and work. But when these technologies impact on decision-making, evidence-based practice and patient safety, we need to know that they are effective and trustworthy.

NHS knowledge and library services are taking a managed approach to the implementation of new technologies on the Knowledge and Library Hub and associated platforms. Each product development is tested by our volunteer expert searchers and the findings inform a formal decision about whether and how the functionality should be deployed. For example, natural language search has been deployed on the Knowledge and Library Hub because it makes a material improvement to the basic search experience. On the other hand, AI Summaries have not been deployed because the reviewers felt that the article summaries could be misleading.

There are copyright issues with using AI on licensed materials like books and journals. A copyright exception permits [text and data mining](#) (TDM) for the purposes of non-commercial research. However, this exemption does not cover the use of generative AI – AI which creates new content in response to instructions from a user. In most cases, a separate

licence or express permission from the copyright owner will be required for this. For more information, check out our [FAQs on generative AI](#).

## Coming up: Health Literacy Month

October is international [Health Literacy Month](#). Health literacy refers to the ability to access, assess and use health information. In England, 43% adults aged 16-65 struggle to understand health information that just contains words – and when numbers are added, this rises to 61% who struggle. You can use the [geodata tool](#) we developed with the University of Southampton to find the health literacy levels in your borough.

The theme chosen by the Health Literacy Month organisers this year is the role of health literacy in increasing health equity. A range of [promotional tools](#) has been developed by the international organisers. You may also find the [tools](#) developed by the national NHS Knowledge and Library Services team helpful including new [Misinformation UnMASKED](#) animations developed in partnership with South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.

This October, the national NHS Knowledge and Library Services team is working with the Patient Information Forum to launch a new interface for the [PIF TICK directory](#) of materials by information producers that have the PIF TICK quality accreditation. Do consider using [Health Literacy Month](#) as a prompt for your communications.

## Coming up: World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day, 20 October 2025

In 2025 the [World Evidence-Based Healthcare Day](#) is asking for shared experiences, innovations, challenges, lessons learned and insights into how knowledge travels and transforms lives. The focus this year is on collaborative knowledge communication explaining that:

*"In evidence-based healthcare, knowledge should not come only from scientific evidence (such as findings from clinical trials, observational studies, and systematic reviews). It also needs to come from community values and preferences, clinical expertise, policy judgement, contextual understanding, evaluation of existing approaches, and experiences. Knowledge is shaped by the interactions among people, systems, and settings, and it is applied to inform decision-making, enhance practice, and improve health outcomes."*

On the 20 October 2025 why not have a go at using one of our [knowledge mobilisation techniques](#) to get knowledge flowing.

### Resource of the month: Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines

*The Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines in Psychiatry* is the essential evidence-based prescribing guidelines on the safe and effective prescribing of psychotropic agents. Covering both common and complex prescribing situations encountered in day-to-day clinical practice, this comprehensive resource provides expert guidance on drug choice, minimum and maximum doses, adverse effects, switching medications, prescribing for special patient groups, and more. Each clear and concise chapter includes an up-to-date reference list providing easy access to the evidence on which the guidance is based.

*The Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines* is available to the whole NHS workforce. Log on to the resource directly [here](#) or access it through the [NHS Knowledge and Library Hub](#) or your local [NHS library's](#) online catalogue.

### 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: Communities of Practice

[Communities of Practice](#) are a knowledge mobilisation tool to bring people together to share ideas, good practice, solve problems, develop expertise and learn together around a topic of interest. Within knowledge and library services there are over 20 communities of practice which help to develop partnership approaches to delivering high quality proactive knowledge and library services for the NHS and realise the vision of Knowledge for Healthcare.

Some communities are very technical and focused on building the skills and expertise to perfect delivery of things like Library Management Systems and the Knowledge and Library Hub. Others focus on skills development such as the Search and Trainers Forum which produces the excellent [National Searching Guidance](#) and offers peer review to continually improve the quality of evidence and literature searches.

The Sustainability in NHS Knowledge and Library Services community has a regular programme of engaging speakers and links with other professions interested in raising awareness of sustainability. Expert speakers present to the Current and Emerging Technologies community where there is also an opportunity to 'stay and play' to develop knowledge about topics like AI; evidence visualisation and power automate tools.

If you would like to find out more about our specialist communities and how we work in partnership, or would like some tips on getting your own community of practice started [please get in touch](#).

### Spotlight on transformational supply of research articles

NHS Knowledge and Library Services provide the evidence you need to make excellent decisions. This includes supplying articles from journals to which your organisation does not subscribe.

The national Knowledge and Library Services team at NHS England provides a national discovery service, the NHS Knowledge and Library Hub, link enhancement technology and regional library management systems. Improving the interoperability of these systems, and leveraging the data underpinning full text linking, realises efficiencies and significant time savings.

For example, the estimated saving in library staff time is 22,000 hours each year, releasing them to do more work supporting the evidence and knowledge needs of staff and learners. It also means you get to receive most articles you request within 24 hours.

Don't forget, if you can't view an article, request it from [your local NHS library](#).

**Quality, Improvement and Impact: NHS knowledge and library specialists bringing**

## the evidence you need to inform your decisions

### Regional Inequalities Strategy

A knowledge specialist carried out an evidence synthesis to inform a region-wide strategy on inequalities in access to eating disorders services. The evidence reinforced local data and experience. The Collaborative has been awarded NHS England funding to continue to develop the Strategy.

*“We started to see a picture emerging, with the research supporting what the data is telling us. This gave credibility to the workshop, by helping stakeholders see the national position alongside the regional.”*

Katie Beeston, Head of Business and Service Development, Midlands Partnership 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](#)

## Share your views – help define the next era of nursing and midwifery in England

The Chief Nursing Officer for England is calling on nurses, midwives, nursing associates and students to help shape a new professional strategy for nursing and midwifery.

The strategy, which is supported by a specific commitment in the 10 Year Health Plan, will set out a compelling, long-term future vision for the



professions, recognising the vital role nursing and midwifery colleagues have in transforming health and care to meet the needs of our changing population.

The strategy will also set out how all colleagues can be supported throughout their careers, reflecting the breadth and diversity of roles and ensuring nursing and midwifery are modern careers of choice for more people.

The strategy will be for all nurses, midwives and nursing associates in England – wherever they work and at all stages of their careers so, please get involved. Share your views and ideas and [complete this survey](#) by Monday 29 September.

### 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.

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