



Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare

November and December 2025, Issues 6-7

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



Recognising the valuable contribution made by NHS knowledge and library staff to improving healthcare outcomes is always worth celebrating. As part of #KNOWvember we shine a light on how librarians and knowledge specialists enable the healthcare workforce to apply evidence into practice, build know-how, continue to learn and drive innovation.

In December it is always a pleasure to host a celebration event for all NHS knowledge and library staff to be inspired by keynote speakers and learn from each other's good practice.

As the year closes, please join me in thanking this small, specialist workforce. In 2026 consider sharing

your stories of how you have benefited from working with your knowledge and library service teams. We invite you to be part of #AMillionDecisions, highlighting the need to use research evidence to inform over a million decisions a day in healthcare.

Information skills E-Learning on the move

Looking for [top tips to find research literature](#) or to [critically appraise a research paper](#)? Head over to the [NHS Learning Hub](#) which will become the new home for all knowledge and library service E-Learning modules in 2026.

You can already access from the Hub the [Knowledge Mobilisation Framework](#) modules to master tools and techniques to help you learn before, during and after all that you do. You can share and apply this knowledge to avoid pitfalls and accelerate good practice.

The Learning Hub will also host the [Health Literacy E-Learning](#), with simple techniques to improve how you communicate and check understanding with others.

If you haven't used these modules before, give them a go and update your bookmarks and links as they move to the new platform.

Coming up: A celebration by NHS knowledge and library staff

On Wednesday 3 December 2025, the small specialist workforce delivering knowledge and library services to the NHS in England will come together to celebrate their work and share good practice.

Librarians and knowledge managers are business-critical to the NHS – ensuring that the right evidence and information are used by the right people, at the right time to improve healthcare outcomes. They provide all healthcare staff with time saving, accelerated access to high quality research evidence, share good practice, and facilitate the exchange of

tacit knowledge and learning from lived experience, which is used to inform over a million decisions a day.

Throughout December and into 2026, celebrate the work of your NHS knowledge and library service teams. [Get in touch](#) to be part of [#AMillionDecisions](#), ask your NHS library and knowledge specialist to bring the research evidence you need to inform all of your healthcare decisions.

Coming up: Health Information Week, 19 to 25 January 2026



Health Information Week

Inspiring Better Health

Quality information empowers people to manage their health proactively and to access the right care at the right time. It supports the shift from treatment to prevention. The five themes can be used daily, or throughout the week:

- Monday 19 January 2026 – Children and Young People
- Tuesday 20 January 2026 - Translated Patient Information
- Wednesday 21 January 2026 – Women's Health
- Thursday 22 January 2026 – Mental Health
- Friday 23 January 2026– Winter Health

[The Health Information Week resources page](#)

provides signposting to information relating to each of the 5 themes plus an ideas bank and tips for holding virtual events. Use the resources to Take part in

Health Information Week events in your local health, public, university, college and school libraries.

Resource of the month: Knowledge Mobilisation Framework

Learning, improving and transforming in times of change – easy-to-use guidance

The pace of change has never been so high in the NHS – new [medicines](#), [technologies](#), [ways of working](#). The [opportunities of AI](#). The [10-year health plan](#) outlines a commitment to new operating and workforce models, and a renewed focus on innovation to support the 3 shifts of hospital to community, analogue to digital, and sickness to prevention. As change occurs, it will be a challenge to keep up; to unpick evidence of what works and improve and transform effectively and efficiently.

Whatever your role, taking the time to assimilate, understand and apply learning from the evidence base, your team's delivery experience and insight, and the insights of other teams or peers in communities and networks, can be invaluable. Packaging and sharing your insights will support others who face similar challenges, too.

The [Knowledge Mobilisation postcards](#) provide easy-to-use guidance for 13 activities that support teams learn, improve and transform. A part of NHS England's [Knowledge Mobilisation Framework](#), they support teams at all stages of their work, for example:

- horizon scanning for the latest evidence at the start a new piece of work,
- assessing what's working and what's not as a team delivers,
- connecting with peers to learn from their experiences and expertise,
- and packaging key learning and content to support others in the future.

The postcards contain straightforward, step-by-step guidance for activities such as after-action-reviews, randomised coffee trials, communities of practice, knowledge assets and retrospective learning. They all contribute to a collaborative, learning and knowledge culture, in teams, departments and organisations.

The postcards are accessible to all. For support with using and applying the tools, contact england.kfh@nhs.net or your local [NHS knowledge and library services team](#).

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

To make the most of the [national 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: Improving E-Learning design

Information skills training is part of the key service offer from NHS knowledge and library services. In 2022 to 2023 over 12,844 sessions were attended by around 51,000 health care staff. These sessions cover a range of subjects, including information and research skills; principles of evidence-based healthcare; health literacy awareness and knowledge mobilisation and communication delivered to small groups or individuals.

Alongside these offers, a suite of E-Learning programmes are also available. These have been developed by the national Knowledge and Library Services team working in partnership with subject matter experts and instructional design specialists. [Read more about how our partnership approach](#) to designing E-Learning content has led to improved outputs.

Why not develop your skills by exploring a couple of modules from the following:

- [How to search the literature effectively?](#)
- [Critically Appraising the evidence base](#)
- [Knowledge Mobilisation Framework](#)
- [Health Literacy](#)

Spotlight on KNOWvember

Every November, health knowledge and library staff share the work that they do to mobilise evidence from research, best practice, organisational knowledge and individual staff 'know-how'. Events organised by NHS knowledge and library staff have included launches of organisational knowledge repositories to capture and share learning; sign-ups to help teams keep up-to-date by receiving regular topic updates; facilitating knowledge legacy sessions to capture unique insights before people move on to new projects or roles; taking part in [virtual Fishbowl Conversations](#) to share top tips about facilitating activities; and facilitating techniques like [After Action Reviews](#) to rapidly share and apply into practice learning about patient safety.

Why not challenge yourself to complete the [KM Skills Sprint](#) to help you to apply evidence and share knowledge effectively to inform your practice?

To help assess further opportunities for your team to apply knowledge into practice why not [contact your local NHS knowledge and library service](#) and arrange a [facilitated knowledge mobilisation self-assessment](#)?

Quality, Improvement and Impact: NHS knowledge and library specialists bringing the evidence you need to inform your decisions

Growing connections through conversations

The Library and Knowledge Services team at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust organise an annual [randomised coffee trial](#). This gives NHS staff the opportunity to meet face to face or virtually, to talk and learn about what colleagues do, grow their connections, share ideas and best practice and spot opportunities to collaborate and innovate. 110 staff from across the Trust took part in 2024 including clinicians, directors, managers, administrative staff and students.

“The currency for learning is words and through that most valuable but often overlooked medium, conversations start and grow. In the vast organisations that are part of the NHS I have conversations with strangers every day. These chats are vital for colleagues to understand the roles others perform as part of the service they provide. Through these conversations, greater understanding is derived, and perceptions and barriers are broken down. This paves the way for improvement in everybody, as well as better relationships” Group Chair Walsall Healthcare/Royal Wolverhampton.



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

Quality, Improvement and Impact: Celebrating good practice

Learning about the patient experience via knowledge cafes

At Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the expertise of the library services team has been used to learn about patient experiences leading to development of an evidence-based *Communicating with Patients Policy*. To inform this, the library services team worked with the Director of Nursing to organise and facilitate a [knowledge conversation café](#) to encourage discussion between Trust staff and patients about the patient experience.

“The first Conversation Cafe with the deaf community was so successful and actually led to a whole improvement plan that we would not have come to on our own if we were thinking about how we improve services. It led to a Board level presentation by one of the participants. Sharing the lived experience within the conversation cafe, capturing insights and data is feeding into our Communicating with Patients policy and leading to thinking about accessible information standards for all patients and staff.”

Director of Nursing, Dorset County Hospital.

Other news

Improving the Quality of Ethnicity Data Across the NHS

NHS England has launched an [Ethnicity Recording Improvement Plan](#), to strengthen the **quality, consistency and completeness** of ethnicity data across the NHS.

Good data means better decisions. By recording accurate, complete and up-to-date information, we can plan services more effectively and make sure everyone receives fair access, **experiences and outcomes**.

The plan sets out practical steps for NHS **organisations identify and address data quality issues**, helping us better understand and tackle health inequalities.

To support the Plan's implementation, we are hosting a webinar on Tuesday 2 December from 2pm to 3.30pm. We will set out ambitions of the Plan and expectations of ICBs and providers, share practical examples of improving ethnicity recording and support organisations

World Diabetes Day: Help us spot type 1 diabetes early and prevent life-threatening complications

Type 1 diabetes can present at any age but most commonly presents in children and young people. It is not caused by lifestyle factors. It is an auto-immune condition, where antibodies cause the pancreas to stop making insulin, resulting in high blood glucose levels.

People living with type 1 diabetes need lifelong insulin treatment to manage their condition and keep them well. More than 90% of children and young people in England have type 1 diabetes.

Early diagnosis saves lives

Nearly 40% of children and young people in England are in life-threatening Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) at diagnosis – and this percentage is rising. It can be difficult to spot type 1 diabetes in the early stages, especially in younger children and infants. Often, children also present with an acute illness like a viral

infection or tonsillitis, so it is important to be vigilant for the symptoms and signs of type 1 diabetes.

Know the 4Ts

This World Diabetes Day, NHS England is raising awareness of the symptoms of type 1 diabetes by promoting the '4Ts' via public and patient-facing channels. Look out for these four key symptoms of new onset type 1 diabetes:

- Toilet – going for a wee more often, especially at night. In younger children this may include new bedwetting, or nappies being heavier than usual
- Thirsty – being constantly thirsty and drinking more than usual
- Tired – being very tired and having less energy
- Thinner – losing weight without trying to or looking thinner than usual

Take urgent action

- If you or your team suspect new onset type 1 diabetes, take these urgent steps:
- Check a finger prick glucose level immediately to help make the diagnosis
- Refer for same day specialist review, following your local care pathway
- Continue to follow [NICE guidance](#) and advice when assessing and diagnosing patients

Learn more and help raise awareness of the 4Ts

- Boost your knowledge of the condition with this [5-minute PowerPoint presentation on DKA prevention](#) for non-specialists by the Children and Young People's Diabetes Network
- Visit the [Diabetes UK website for 4Ts campaign information and resources](#)
- Access age-appropriate [4Ts resources for children, young people and their parents or carers at DigiBete](#)

Host a graduate trainee – apply for September 2026

The [NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme](#) (GMTS) are seeking applications from health and care organisations across England to host the upcoming September 2026 cohort of trainees.

Established in 1956, GMTS has almost 70 years of graduate training expertise and is ranked third in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers.

The scheme offers trainees the opportunity to develop into future leaders, with fast-track funded leadership development for up to two and a half years in one of our non-clinical specialisms that currently include general management, human resources, finance, and health informatics.

Trainees undertake two centrally assured placements in host organisations alongside which they complete postgraduate qualifications and leadership development training. As a host, you'll play a vital role in shaping the next generation of NHS leaders by offering real-world experience, mentorship, and insight into the complexities of healthcare management.

For more information, visit - [Host a trainee – Graduate Management Training Scheme](#).

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.

No access to a local service? [Contact us to discuss options](#).

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