



Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare

August and September 2026, Issue 12

Welcome to this issue, 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



Welcome to the August and September issue of Spotlight on Knowledge for Healthcare. This edition highlights how NHS knowledge and library services connect people with trusted evidence, practical resources and professional expertise to support safer care, better decisions and service improvement.

In this issue, we celebrate Medway NHS Foundation Trust's patient safety award shortlisting and showcase

the impact of specialist evidence support on clinical improvement and wider policy development. You can also explore recent BMJ Best Practice updates, resources for Health Literacy Month and Green Libraries Week, and practical guidance on accessing

trusted knowledge through NHS OpenAthens and the Royal Marsden Manual Online.

This issue also highlights how knowledge and library services support collaboration, improvement and wider impact. Discover how professional leads across five nations share strategic approaches and learn from one another; see how specialist evidence support shaped the Improving Mobility quality improvement project for patients living with frailty; and explore a good-practice example showing how access to trusted evidence helped turn a local enquiry into activity influencing national policy and practice.

Medway shortlisted for an HSJ Patient Safety Award

Congratulations to Richard Pemberton, Knowledge and Library Service Strategic Manager and the team at Medway NHS Foundation Trust who have been shortlisted for an HSJ Patient Safety Award in the Digital Clinical Safety Initiative of the Year category.

The team's "Right Guidance, Right People, Right Time: Streamlining Clinical Decision Support Access" project has transformed how colleagues across Medway access trusted clinical decision support. The work has brought together local and national guidance in one place through BMJ Best Practice which is available on the web and on the app. BMJ Best Practice, and the local guidance, is also integrated into the trust's electronic health record system for quick and easy access at the point of care.

Teamwork has been essential to this project with the Knowledge and Library Services team working closely with clinical colleagues and BMJBP Clinical Champions across the organisation. The result has been a 191% increase in use of BMJBP.

Following the success of the initial project, the team is now promoting newly added Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines to increase awareness.

Winners will be announced on Monday 28 September.
We wish Richard and the team every success.

October is Health Literacy Month

October is Health Literacy Month, offering an opportunity to reflect on how we can make health information more accessible for everyone who uses NHS services.

Health and digital literacy underpin the three strategic shifts set out in the NHS 10 Year Health Plan so now is an ideal time to explore the practical tools and resources available to support your work. Discover how these approaches can enhance communication, improve patient experience, and support better health outcomes in your daily practice.

- [Misinformation UnMASKED](#): a tool to help the public to recognise the signs of misinformation and take a critical approach to health information online.
- [The NHS Readability Tool](#): designed to help health and care staff to review the information they are providing to their patients and service users to ensure it is pitched at a level that is accessible to as many people as possible.
- [The Health Literacy Geodata Tool](#): which provides estimates of low health literacy at the local authority level, allowing local health and care systems to target and prioritise interventions.
- Ask your local [NHS knowledge and library service](#) about accredited health literacy training and networks.

Coming up: Green Libraries Week

Green Libraries Week takes place between the 21 to 28 October 2026 to celebrate libraries across all sectors, leading climate and sustainability initiatives for their users and communities.

Many NHS Knowledge and Library Services are pleased to support this initiative. In 2026, the focus is

on Climate Facts for a greener future: Navigating mis- and disinformation in libraries.

Resource of the month: Royal Marsden Manual Online

Do you need to remind yourself or learn about a new nursing procedure? The Royal Marsden Manual Online provides you with step-by-step guidance nursing procedures from abdominal examination to wound drain shortening and several hundred in between.

The Royal Marsden Manual is evidence-based and written by nursing practitioners at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. Use the manual for revalidation and competence assessment.

Find it at rmmonline.co.uk. Login using your NHS OpenAthens account. If you do not have one, [self-register](#).

Talk to your local NHS library about whether other access options are available while on site and using the NHS network.

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: Sharing strategic development across 5 nations

The national NHS Knowledge and Library Services team at NHS England provides strategic leadership for local knowledge and library services within the NHS in England, with counterpart health library leads in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The health library and knowledge service professional leads from the 5 nations meet regularly to share knowledge and strategic approaches to improve the delivery of knowledge and library services for NHS staff, learners and the public.

Themed developments have included taking a consistent approach to eBook collections, discussions about ensuring return on investment in digital resources and raising awareness of current topics such as implications of copyright legislation when using AI. This informal partnership raises awareness of nation-specific policies and approaches whilst offering opportunities for mutual learning.

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

Improving Mobility in Patients Living with Frailty Through Activity Tracking Technology During Inpatient Stay

The Clinical Librarian carried out an in-depth search for a Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner looking at information and evidence on the use of activity tracking technology to improve patient mobility and reduce length of inpatient stay.

The literature search directly enabled the design of the ward-based quality improvement project by clarifying the existing evidence and identifying areas where research in frail inpatients is limited. It informed the project protocol, outcomes to measure (e.g., step count, sedentary time, mobility changes) and supported the completion of governance documents including the Data Protection Impact Assessment. The evidence also guided device choice, feasibility considerations and the early design of patient information materials and staff prompts.

"Without the Clinical Librarian's input, I wouldn't have been able to define the project as clearly or confidently. The search shaped the protocol and ensured decisions were evidence-based from the outset."

Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Acute Frailty and Hospital@Home team, Royal Surrey 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

Quality, Improvement and Impact: Celebrating good practice

Sometimes the biggest changes begin with the smallest moments.

A community member's interest in NHS supply chains led to a conversation about how procurement can support local economies, employment, population health and national resilience. With support from the specialist Knowledge and Library Services team at Torbay Hospital, the full text of an article by Lord Philip Hunt was obtained, providing the evidence needed to open up a wider policy discussion.

That initial evidence connection helped spark a chain of activity, including meetings, presentations and briefing papers for the House of Lords. The work contributed to Lord Hunt's letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in July 2026, setting out recommendations for procurement reform.

The impact has since extended to discussions with the Cabinet Office and the Department of Health and Social Care Foresight Unit, exploring how NHS procurement can create broader social, economic and health benefits for communities.

The NHS Library and Knowledge Service Team played a vital enabling role. By finding and providing access to relevant evidence, the team helped turn a small moment of curiosity into informed action. Their expertise supported the development of stronger arguments, connected people with knowledge, and demonstrated how library services contribute directly to decision-making, innovation and system improvement.

This example shows how specialist NHS knowledge and library staff make a difference: helping staff

access trusted information, use evidence confidently and connect ideas that can influence policy and practice well beyond the local organisation.

With thanks to Paul Norrish, Community Wealth Building Manager and Catherine Micklethwaite Library and Knowledge Services Manager, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust.

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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