

Community pharmacy IT progress update: Spring 2024

This briefing provides updates about community pharmacy IT and progress made with the Community Pharmacy IT Group's (CP ITG) [workstreams](#) since the last bulletin.

The updates are categorised into the work plan areas below.

- [Community pharmacy IT developments: overview](#)
- [Establishing data flows & IT standards;](#)
- [Developing robust services IT & systems;](#)
- [Digital prescriptions & services;](#)
- [Electronic health records usage;](#)
- [Straightforward security & connectivity;](#)
- [Policy and general updates;](#)
- [Seamless referrals & appointments;](#) and
- [Optimal principles across all pharmacy IT.](#)

Note: You can click or select a category heading (left) to automatically scroll down to that section of the document.

Comments or feedback that support progress on the priority areas can be provided by emailing it@cpe.org.uk. These updates are also available in HTML format at cpe.org.uk/itupdate.

Establishing data flows & IT standards.

Relevant webpage(s) include: [/itcommunications](#)

Information standards for health

[Department of Health and Social Care is running a consultation to invite views on the proposals for information standards for health](#) – how these are produced, communicated and implemented in the future. Department of Health and Social Care say that:

“Changes introduced by the Health and Care Act (HCA) 2022, once commenced, will make information standards binding, i.e. they must be complied with, and will extend their application to include private health and adult social care providers. These changes necessitate regulations to establish the procedure for preparing and publishing information standards.”

The consultation contains 14 questions and should take 10-15 minutes. All CP ITG participants, including pharmacy, policy, and supplier representatives, are encouraged to submit a response.

Previously, Community Pharmacy IT Group pharmacy representatives have supported the need for interoperability standards alongside ongoing engagement regarding IT policy and technical changes that could be progressed or implemented by the community pharmacy sector and its IT suppliers. Therefore, it is suggested that information standards related to the communication pharmacy sector involve relevant engagements with Community Pharmacy IT Group, Community Pharmacy England and the NHS England pharmacy team.

Changes made by the HCA 2022, once commenced, could:

- make information standards binding; and
- extend information standards so that they may also apply to private health and adult social care providers

The consultation includes background information and fourteen questions (mostly with multiple-choice options):

1. Do you think that, before preparing an information standard, the Secretary of State or NHS England should be required to obtain advice? (For example, from an advisory board or other persons)

2. Which areas should be represented on such a board or included as other persons seeking advice?
3. Besides seeking advice, what should the Secretary of State or NHS England consider before preparing an information standard?
4. [What] should be included in an information standard when published?
5. What would be an appropriate minimum interval for reviewing an information standard?
6. Should the regulations specify that minimum interval?
7. Please list any other procedures you think should be followed in connection with preparing and publishing information standards.
8. Which procedure should revisions to an information standard follow?
9. Which steps should a 'light touch' procedure for revisions to an information standard include?
10. Which procedure should enable revoking (withdrawing) an information standard to follow?
11. Which steps should a 'light touch' procedure for revocations of an information standard include? (Select all that apply)
12. What procedure should adopting information standards follow?
13. Which steps should a 'light touch' procedure for adopted information standards include?
14. Do you have any other feedback you'd like to share? (Maximum 150 words)

Next steps:

- Group participants are encouraged to consider submitting a consultation response.
- The secretariat could explore with voting pharmacy representative members whether a CP ITG pharmacy representatives' response can be submitted.

Related information:

- [Submit a consultation response at gov.uk.](#)
- [NHS England's Transformation Directorate \(NHSE's TD\) information standards.](#)
- [List of standards and collections:](#) includes standards for:
 - Medicine and Allergy/Intolerance Data Transfer Standard [DAPB4013](#) Guidance (NHS Digital);
 - Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag Standard [DAPB4019](#) Guidance (NHS England);
 - NHS number, NHS Dictionary of Medicines and Devices (DM+D), secure email, SNOMED CT, Social Prescribing and many more standards.

Standards and interoperability

- [The National Competency Framework for Data Professionals in Health and Care was launched at the annual conference for the Association of Professional Healthcare Analysts in Stoke-on-Trent.](#)

NHS use of data

- Nuffield Trust published an article on [questions of trust: Exploring the national data opt-out rate.](#)
- [Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Health and Care Partnership uses a data-led approach to help support vulnerable people facing fuel poverty.](#)
- [Only eight of 36 NHS trusts who piloted NHS England's controversial new data platform were willing to cite any specific benefits from it.](#)
- [Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation Trust apologised for mistakenly releasing private information belonging to more than 22,000 patients in two major data breaches in 2020 and 2021.](#)
- [Somerset NHS Foundation Trust began to contact patients affected by a data breach at Musgrove Park Hospital.](#)

- Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust representative expressed a view that [an integrated live stroke registry might enable clinicians to stay on the front foot across the patient pathway.](#)
- [Effective information sharing – aided by the PRSB's Diabetes Record Information Standard – should make it easier to deliver joined-up care.](#)
- [The NHS expanded the use of a secure research platform behind the roll-out of new Covid-19 treatments to help drive life-saving advances for other significant diseases.](#)
- [NHS England reported substantial benefits in supporting hospitals and patients from the early use of two data systems that are now being rolled out nationally.](#)

NHSmail multi-factor authentication (MFA)

- The NHSmail team previously presented to the group about MFA and NHSmail. MFA is already a requirement for Welsh NHSmail. The group previously told the NHSmail team that clear communications and proper testing should occur before a full roll-out of MFA across pharmacy NHSmail users. Community Pharmacy England and the NHSmail team have worked on guidance to support the testing of MFA. MFA will be an essential development for NHSmail. It helps data be kept in a more protected environment. It helps protect the reputation of the NHS, as well as the individuals and organisations that use NHSmail. It also provides increased protection against cyber-attacks. The NHSmail plan is to make MFA mandatory for all NHSmail users. The NHSmail team expects most organisations to have fully implemented MFA by 2024. Mandatory rollout of MFA for the PODS NHSmail users (pharmacy, optometry, dentistry and social care, DACS, Independent Midwives, GP Locums) is scheduled for 2024. Community Pharmacy England, working with the NHSmail team, has a prepared [one-page factsheet for those pharmacy NHSmail users testing MFA \(or adding/removing MFA\)](#). Pharmacy representatives are also encouraged to urgently put themselves forward to test out MFA by using the [guidance factsheet](#) to switch MFA on. Pharmacy representatives are encouraged to submit comments to the [IT feedback form](#) about experiences and comments on the new guidance for MFA.

Developing robust services, IT & systems

Relevant webpages include: [/servicesit](#) and [/systems](#)

Pharmacy First IT

NHS England and its Transformation Directorate are continuing to work with four IT system suppliers to assure Pharmacy First functionalities:

- [Cegedim](#)
- [PharmOutcomes](#)
- [Positive Solutions](#)
- [Sonar Informatics](#)

The system suppliers updated their NHS-assured IT support for the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) to incorporate the additional elements of the Pharmacy First service, and additional IT functionality is also being developed to support the service.

Pharmacy owners, therefore, have a choice of either:

- Continuing to use their IT system supplier for Pharmacy First IT support or
- Changing to another NHS-assured Pharmacy First IT system supplier.

The four CPCS IT system providers have all confirmed to Community Pharmacy England that the pharmacy's contracts to use a CPCS IT system carried over to the supplier's new Pharmacy First IT system at the commencement of the service unless the pharmacy owner opts to use another supplier for Pharmacy First.

Pharmacy owners that have yet to contract with the system supplier they use (or will use) should do so. NHS England and suppliers continue to work on the other IT elements coming in post-launch:

- GP Connect Update Record;
- GP Connect Access Record; and
- Booking and Referral Standards (BaRS).

NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) pharmacy IT

- NHS England and Community Pharmacy England want suppliers to be given information about the service, including the IT implications and dataset requirements. The [minutes and slides](#) from the group's previous meeting outline additional developments concerning MYS APIs. The MYS API priorities were previously listed as Pharmacy Contraception Service, Discharge Medicine Service (DMS), Blood Pressure Checking Service, New Medicines Service (NMS) and [Smoking Cessation Service](#). CP ITG pharmacy representatives previously reported that data entry for services such as DMS is taking many pharmacy teams' excess time. Last year, NHSBSA released an expression of interest for the DMS API to explore the market's interest in providing this integration service. NHS England and NHSBSA have been committed to prioritising the progress of the API programme.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy

- Med-Tech examined [in health care will improve time efficiencies and the quality of patient care](#).
- [AI and data technologies have been established in areas like diagnostics and drug discovery; the rise in these digital technologies sparked discussions around how ChatGPT-like tools could find their way into clinicians' digital toolkits](#).
- King's College AI ethics and governance lead opined [how the 'fragmented' NHS can create the conditions for AI to thrive](#).
- [The Accelerated Capability Environment has worked with NHS AI Lab to develop an artificial intelligence tool to identify patients at risk of prolonged hospital stays, which has helped to reduce health costs and improve patient outcomes](#).
- The Lancet published an article on [assessing the potential of GPT-4 to perpetuate racial and gender biases in health care: a model evaluation study](#).
- PLOS Digital Health published an article on [an evidence-based approach to artificial intelligence education for medical students: A systematic review](#).
- Cureus published an article on [Artificial Intelligence Revolutionizing the Field of Medical Education](#).
- PLOS Digital Health published an article on artificial intelligence with temporal features outperforming machine learning in predicting diabetes and [health equity in large language model deployment](#).
- [Foundation models are a form of artificial intelligence \(AI\) designed to produce various outputs, and they are being adopted across multiple sectors](#).
- JMIR published an article on [opportunities, Challenges, and Future Directions of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Medical Education: Scoping Review](#).
- Cureus published an article on [Human-Robot Collaboration for Healthcare: A Narrative Review](#).
- [Recent developments in AI have sparked commentary about their potential impact on jobs in many industries, including health and care](#).
- [The results of a new study by health tech company Feebris were published in PLOS Digital Health. They demonstrated the power of AI-guided virtual care in expanding clinical capacity within underserved communities](#).
- [President of the Royal College of Radiologists said, "We need to proceed with caution" as AI in healthcare develops in a keynote session at the inaugural Digital Health AI and Data conference](#).

- [The pace at which generative AI has infiltrated product portfolios and media headlines in 2023 has excited and confounded those tasked with evaluating its implications for patient care.](#)
- [As generative AI obtains a foothold in all aspects of life, health systems must ensure that AI tools are evidence-based and appropriate for clinical use.](#)
- The founder of Digital Care examined [the current advances in generative AI and its challenges and benefits for the NHS.](#)
- Reform.uk explored [smart prescribing, using AI and technology during the early stages of diagnosis when prescribing antibiotics to help clinicians make smart decisions about the use of antibiotics.](#)
- The National Health Executive reported that the NHS will benefit from emerging technologies sooner thanks to a new government 'regulatory sandbox' that will streamline AI innovations.
- [The prime minister announced a new mission, aiming to accelerate the use of AI in life sciences to tackle the most significant health challenges.](#)
- NHS England AI lead opined that [As generative AI obtains a foothold in many aspects of life, health systems must ensure that AI tools are evidence-based and appropriate for clinical use.](#)
- [A software platform powered by artificial intelligence could revolutionise how brain aneurysms are treated.](#)
- [Almost half of people in the UK support using AI to bring down record NHS waiting lists, although more work must be done to build public trust in the technology if the UK is to keep up with other economies.](#)
- [A global survey by Censuwide has revealed that the healthcare sector is only just behind the tech space for employee AI usage. This is despite having the lowest levels of security investment in AI protection.](#)
- [How can the 'fragmented' NHS create conditions for AI to thrive.](#)
- House of Lords Library published a briefing on [anti-ageing, personalised cancer cures and robotic dosing implants: artificial intelligence is making headlines for its breakthroughs in the pharmaceutical world.](#)
- [A £21 million investment in AI aimed to modernise NHS diagnostics and improve wait times.](#)
- [Digital Health Unplugged podcast released an episode on AI and data news team debrief.](#)

AI care and case studies: Mental Health

- [Edinburgh Royal Infirmary was the first UK hospital to trial an AI-powered pain assessment tool designed to help patients determine their level of pain if they're unable to reliably self-report – such as those living with dementia.](#)
- [Nottingham-based AI startup BlueSkeye AI was approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to begin a clinical trial of its TrueBlue perinatal mental health app in the NHS.](#)
- [Carers of people with dementia and autism could get support from socks which use AI. The SmartSocks, created by Milbotix, alert carers when the wearer is distressed.](#)
- BBC reported that [an artificial intelligence system designed to speed up the diagnosis of mental health conditions in children is to be developed in Cambridge.](#)
- npj Digital Medicine published an article on [systematic review and meta-analysis of AI-based conversational agents for promoting mental health and well-being.](#)
- [A new research study found that using an artificially intelligent AI chatbot can offer significant emotional and mental support to pre- and postnatal women and help to reduce the severity of depressive symptoms.](#)
- [Limbic is using AI to improve access to mental health support.](#)

AI care and case studies: Research

- [Chelsea and Westminster patients were part of new research that determined that most would rather have their skin assessed by artificial intelligence than wait weeks to see a dermatologist in person.](#)
- [A new £28 million UKRI AI Centre for Doctoral Training at Imperial College London will train over 120 researchers to develop patient-ready technology.](#)
- [Intelligent Ultrasound Group plc signed a research agreement with the University of Dundee to initiate proof-of-concept work for AI-based diagnostic tools for liver disease.](#)
- [Cureus published an article, Towards Ideal Health Ecosystem With Artificial Intelligence-Driven Medical Services in India: An Overview.](#)
- [The American Heart Association published a report on how Artificial intelligence may help predict – possibly prevent – sudden cardiac death.](#)
- [The Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery published an article on artificial intelligence-driven aspects for detecting early stroke changes in non-contrast CT: a systematic review and meta-analysis.](#)
- [BBC reported that artificial intelligence is nearly twice as good at grading the aggressiveness of a rare form of cancer from scans as the current method, a study suggests.](#)
- [AI could improve cancer diagnosis – if we get these five things right.](#)

AI care and studies: Primary Care

- [Health Tech World reported that people with suspected skin cancer benefited from faster diagnosis thanks to ground-breaking new technology at University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay Trust.](#)
- [AI will spot patients at risk of needing to go to the hospital so community NHS teams can get to them first and reduce pressures on A&Es as part of a range of tech and data solutions rolled out across the NHS ahead of winter.](#)
- [County Hospital in Stafford received a £1.28m AI upgrade for its radiology training facilities, which will benefit patients and clinicians in the Midlands.](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence was introduced to GP practices across the South West to help them offer earlier support to people at risk of hospital admission.](#)
- [£21 million is being allocated to 64 NHS trusts across England to roll out AI tools to speed up the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.](#)
- [An AI tool that can predict the 10-year risk of deadly heart attacks could transform treatment for patients who undergo CT scans to investigate chest pain, according to the British Heart Foundation.](#)
- [Four GP practices in Somerset have trialled an AI system that can highlight registered patients with complex health needs who are at risk of hospital admission or who rarely contact their GP and contact them for conversations about their health.](#)
- [The NHS introduced artificial intelligence into doctors' practices across the West Country to spot early warning signs of patients most at risk.](#)

Digital prescriptions & services

Relevant webpages include: [/patientdigitalservices](#), [/apps](#), [nhsapp](#) and [/eps](#)

Other NHS account and NHS App updates

- [NHS England reported that more than four in five GP practices in England are enabling their patients to access their health records online through the NHS App.](#)
- [The NHS App marked its fifth birthday; new data shows it has 33.6 million registered users, with monthly traffic to the app rising by more than half in the past year.](#)
- [The NHS expanded the NHS App to allow more people to view their vaccination records and book in for vaccines.](#)

- [More than four in five GP practices \(81.1%\) in England now give patients access to their new health records online, thanks to the NHS delivery plan for recovering access to primary care.](#)
- [NHS funding supports the rollout of the Digital Health Passport across 12 integrated care board regions, empowering people to take control of their health by making asthma self-management smarter.](#)

Patient digital tools and apps

- [NICE recommended seven digital technologies.](#)
- The Department of Health and Social Care previously reported on a [digital NHS Health Check to tackle deadly cardiovascular disease](#). DHSC is looking to work with up to three local authorities to pilot the first iteration of the digital NHS Health Check. DHSC is now accepting expressions of interest. The expression of interest opens on Tuesday, 27th February, and will close at 11.59pm on Friday, 22nd March 2024. Detailed guidance outlining eligibility requirements and how to apply can be found on the [NHS Health Check website](#). Local Pharmaceutical Committees may want LPCs to flag this opportunity to their local public health teams.
- [NHS patients will soon be trialling home testing for chronic kidney disease as part of its £30 million tech and AI innovation fund.](#)
- Digital Health Intelligence published [its latest market analysis report, where Lloyd Price examined the digital therapeutics market.](#)
- [A new app-based service was set to go from strength to strength as it transitioned to a national programme supporting the NHS and social care workforce.](#)
- [UK electronic patient record provider Nervecentre unveiled a new patient app, Patientcentre, which will help make patients active participants in their care both in the hospital and as outpatients.](#)
- [A local app called 'Let's Talk Clots' provides patients with information on blood clots and how to reduce their risk.](#)
- [Remote patient monitoring provider Inhealthcare has partnered with FibriCheck, the medically certified app for heart health, to help the NHS combat cardiovascular disease in the UK.](#)

Electronic health records usage

Relevant webpages include: [/genomics](#) and [/records](#)

Records: National

- [The NHS has met the government's target for 90% of trusts adopting electronic patient records in hospitals ahead of schedule.](#)
- [Digital Maturity Assessment showed that under 30% of NHS trusts with an electronic patient record have key functionality and, therefore, fully use their system.](#)
- The UK Authority reported that [social care providers in England have been using digital records more slowly than the pace desired by the DHSC, according to a new government auditor's report.](#)
- [A new electronic patient record has gone live at South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland, the first step in digitising health and care records in the country for more efficient care.](#)
- [In a Digital Health Networks debate on the drive to standardise EPR systems and the risks of creating monopolies, the panel shared the view that there is currently no monopoly in the NHS hospital EPR market, but more needed to be done to develop relationships with suppliers.](#)
- [A new electronic health record consultancy, MediConfig, was launched to help healthcare IT teams worldwide enhance their Cerner Millennium EHRs.](#)

- [A new electronic prescription service in Wales entered a live testing phase ahead of a phased rollout from January 2024.](#)
- [The CCIO explained why fully implementing EPRs can be challenging and suggested vital steps to remove the barriers to success.](#)
- [New digital innovations improve safety, cut waiting times and save NHS Wales money.](#)

Records: local

- [Humber and North Yorkshire ICS are in the early stages of exploring whether to expand Google's involvement in the Yorkshire and Humber Care Record.](#)
- [According to an independent economic evaluation, the London Care Record has saved health and care professionals' time up to a value of £44.4 million, helping them provide safe and effective care more quickly.](#)
- [The Northamptonshire Care Record is now live, joining up care records for more than 800,000 people in the county and ensuring that the professionals directly involved in their care can instantly access the information they need to support them.](#)
- [MedTech reported that patients at a reception in Westminster asked parliamentarians, clinicians, and NHS leaders to involve them in decision-making as part of an effort to transform the NHS by effectively implementing the latest medical technology and innovation.](#)
- [Thanks to digitally supported elective recovery measures, University Hospitals Leicester saw a 10% fall in waiting lists between December 2022 and September 2023 and a 66% fall in those waiting more than a year for treatment.](#)

Records (local Trusts)

- [Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust announced that Nervecentre is the preferred supplier for its new Electronic Patient Record \(EPR\) system.](#)
- [Alcidion signed a contract with South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to extend its Miya Precision Electronic Patient Record contract for eight more years.](#)
- [HSJ reported that only half of staff across two acute trusts were fully trained in using a new electronic patient record before its introduction, which led to disruption and patient harm.](#)
- [Somerset NHS Foundation Trust has successfully integrated the Better Meds ePMA \(electronic prescribing and medication administration\) solution into SIDeR – the Somerset Integrated Digital e-Record system.](#)
- [Birmingham and Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust picked Epic as a preferred supplier for its next EPR.](#)
- [University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire had expected to launch its EPR, supplied by US firm Oracle Cerner; however, difficulties during testing—including doctors' logins not working—have delayed implementation.](#)
- [Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust went live with the Access Rio electronic patient record in just eight weeks.](#)
- [University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust temporarily halted the launch of its Oracle electronic patient record system.](#)
- [A new electronic patient record powered by Epic launched across Guy's St Thomas' and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts.](#)
- [Four northeast London trusts have benefited from the deployment of a new electronic prescription service from CLEO Systems. The service streamlines prescription ordering and empowers outpatient clinicians.](#)
- [The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust signed a 10-year contract with System C for an integrated electronic patient record system. This system will replace the trust's in-house-built EPR and accelerate its digital maturity and roadmap.](#)
- [University Hospitals of Derby, Burton, and Chesterfield Royal Hospital announced Nervecentre as the preferred supplier for a new joint electronic patient record system.](#)

Genomics

- Future Healthcare Journal published an article on [embedding genomics across the NHS: a primary care perspective](#).
- The European Journal of Human Genetics published an article on [implementing](#).
- Cureus published an article on [genetic testing for successive cancer treatment](#).
- [UK Biobank released the world's largest-by-far single set of sequencing data, completing the most ambitious project ever undertaken](#).
- [Genomics England and Oxford Nanopore Technologies announced a strategic research partnership to resolve undiagnosed rare disease cases](#).
- [The Genomics Education Programme explored polygenic risk scores and why their application in at-home genomic testing has been brought into question](#).
- [A new digital tool for taking the genetic family history of patients, which can improve the process of diagnosing cancers and rare conditions, was launched at the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust](#).
- eClinicalMedicine published an article on [combined population genomic screening for three high-risk conditions in Australia: a modelling study](#).
- [DnaNudge and NantNudge aimed to accelerate handheld AI genomics for a global audience](#).
- [UK Biobank unveiled incredible new data from whole genome sequencing of its half-million participants. This step is set to drive the discovery of new diagnostics, treatments, and cures](#).
- [The interim CEO of Genomics England has delved deep into the organisation's work and how AI fits in](#).

Straightforward security & connectivity

Relevant webpage(s) include: [/ds](#) and [/connections](#)

Contingency and connectivity

- [NHS England issued a national alert to all trusts providing maternity services after faults were discovered in IT software that could pose "potential serious risks to patient safety"](#).
- BBC cited the [Health Services Safety Investigations Body \(HSSIB\), the country's patient safety watchdog, which said action is needed to address NHS computer failings](#).
- [NHS England confirmed that all physical data centres have now been decommissioned following the successful move of NHS Spine to the cloud earlier this year](#).

Policy and general updates

Relevant webpages include: [techpolicydev](#)

IT policy: priorities, reports and the future

- [A 2024 deadline to eliminate paper prescriptions in practices is pushed to 2025 due to digital challenges, leaving the NHS behind its ambitious goals](#).
- [The government's commitment to eliminating paper prescribing in hospitals by 2023 was not met, partly due to digital maturity factors](#).
- According to research from BT, [three-quarters](#).
- Professor Bob Wachter opined that [the NHS required a new central investment' to achieve digital maturity and realise the potential of emerging technologies](#).
- [NHS England has highlighted three technology and data initiatives that could help it cope with the winter surge in demand for its services](#).
- NHS Confederation published a [report on the needs \(including digital ones\) of the NHS within England](#).

- NHS England published [the NHS vaccination strategy, which outlined how vaccinations will be made more accessible than ever before, including through expanding the NHS App, 'one-stop shops' and community outreach.](#)
- Digital Health reported that [WHO issued new guidelines on "person-centred" HIV strategic information as part of its latest policy brief on digital health data.](#)
- Springer Nature published a report on [the state of open data 2023: global attitudes towards open data.](#)
- The UK Authority reported that [NHS Shared Business Services has signed a series of contracts for a procurement framework for intelligent automation services in the health service.](#)
- [PCMIS Health Technologies has signed a contract to support SilverCloud through Amwell's delivery of the National Digital Mental Health Program for Ireland.](#)
- PLOS Digital Health published an article on [maximising the value of patient and public involvement in the digital health co-design process.](#)
- create new opportunities for collaboration and maximise each organisation's strengths and expertise.
- [The Faculty of Clinical Informatics was impacted by trustee resignations, triggered by finance and governance issues and questions about working with Accenture and Palantir.](#)
- [The Faculty of Clinical Informatics told its members that operations would likely have to be closed down and that operations would cease due to severe financial and other pressures.](#)
- [The Our Future Health medical research programme announced that it had reached the milestone of having its one-millionth volunteer sign up since it started recruiting just over a year ago.](#)
- UK Authority reported that [NHS England published plans to create a national vaccination data record and confirmed that a feature for booking vaccinations will be added to the NHS App.](#)
- [The UK Digital Health and Care Association is a new membership body that will provide a home for sector professionals.](#)
- The Chief Nursing Informatics Officer at System C Healthcare discussed [some key obstacles the NHS faces as it navigates the digital transformation.](#)
- [The Government has acknowledged that it will not meet its commitment to eliminate paper prescribing in hospitals and introduce digital or e-prescribing across the entire NHS by 2024.](#)
- [NHS England reported on progress against digital clinical safety strategic commitments.](#)
- [New figures revealed NHS's virtual ward progress.](#)
- Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of California explained [why now is the time for the NHS to harness the potential of digital technology in its services.](#)
- [The Greater Manchester Health and Care Digital Transformation Strategy was launched, detailing how digital, data and technology will combine to transform care in the region and improve patient outcomes.](#)
- [Kumar Medical Centre in Slough used a population health management approach to revolutionise its annual NHS Quality and Outcomes Framework \(QOF\) to help free up time for more appointments and optimise patient outcomes.](#)
- [Digital Health Networks launched the Birmingham Declaration, a statement of intent that provides a focus and a framework of priorities for the Network's next five years.](#)
- Lexology published an article that examined [digital therapeutics in Europe and discussed the current development scenario and the regulatory framework.](#)

Policy (Federated Data Platform)

- [US analytics and AI firms Palantir and Accenture were selected to deliver the £480m Federated Data Platform procurement.](#)

- [NHS England awarded a contract to operate its future federated data platform project \(FDP\) for US data analytics giant Palantir, with support from Accenture, PwC, NECS, and Carnall Farrar.](#)
- [Digital Health reported a mixed reaction to the selection of Palantir.](#)
- [NHS England investigated whether US data analytics giant Palantir violated the terms of its contract to run the Federated Data Platform.](#)
- [Four organisations sued NHS England, claiming there was no legal basis for setting up the Federated Data Platform.](#)
- [Palantir's CEO commented about whether the Federated Data Platform could make it easier for a future UK government to sell off NHS-related data.](#)
- [The NHS implemented a new software tool, the Federated Data Platform, to help tackle waiting lists and reduce hospital discharge delays.](#)
- [Palantir's road to the Federated Data Platform contract: a timeline.](#)

IT policy (trusts)

- [Inhealthcare won an NHS contract to scale up virtual wards across Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield to support delivering safe and convenient care outside of a hospital setting.](#)
- [ITVX reported that thousands of people in Sussex have been treated on so-called virtual wards since a pioneering NHS scheme started a year ago.](#)
- [Digital Health explored the hospital-at-home model in delivering healthcare at a time of mounting pressure on traditional services and the effect of this on patients and practitioners.](#)
- [The NHS will roll out new software in spring to deliver better joined-up care for millions of patients, help tackle waiting lists and reduce hospital discharge delays.](#)
- [The Royal Pharmaceutical Society launched new interim professional standards for pharmacy services for virtual wards to ensure the delivery of high-quality care and optimal outcomes for individuals in the 'hospital at home' setting.](#)
- [The Royal College of Physicians set out their view on 'hospital at home' and virtual wards. In summary, RCP supports the acute care of people in their own homes using hospital-at-home models. Ward routines and processes should underpin this care when appropriate criteria are met.](#)
- [Doccla, a virtual ward provider to the NHS, has announced a new partnership with Joined Up Care Derbyshire to introduce a transformative approach to healthcare in Derby and Derbyshire.](#)
- [Cornwall became the first region in the country to use a transformative digital care service, which is set to improve health outcomes and reduce pressure on the NHS and social care.](#)
- [A guidance letter from NHS England to trusts on industrial action suggested that planned investment for frontline digitisation may be pulled from all but the most minor digitised trusts.](#)
- [A new digital healthcare hub in South Yorkshire is set to use technology to address inequalities in patient care.](#)
- [According to the latest figures from NHS England, the NHS's ambition to roll out 10,000 virtual ward beds by the end of September 2023 has been achieved.](#)
- [NHS England plans for a significant procurement framework based on digital pathways in primary care.](#)
- [From managing long-term conditions and preparing for operations to supporting discharge and facilitating administrative tasks, the potential for digital health technologies to transform acute health care across the UK and Europe is vast.](#)
- [NHS virtual ward models are a solution for today's challenges and a suitable investment for the future. The decisions that trust and ICB leaders must make can turn pioneering home care options into permanent operational improvements to the NHS hospital experience.](#)

- Leeds launched new [remote monitoring technology](#) to understand how it can support older adults living in their own homes and reduce the number of visits to doctors or hospitals.
- [First, VR therapy for mental health was approved for use in the NHS.](#)
- [NHS trusts explored existing technology in the NHS and its effects on improving patient experience and reducing NHS pressures.](#)
- Med-Tech reported that [revolutionary technology is reforming healthcare in the UK, with a prime example being the NHS's commitment to expanding its virtual ward programme.](#)
- [Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust embarked on a digital journey with ServiceNow to simplify admin tasks, streamline projects, and improve access to physical and digital resources.](#)
- [Leeds Teaching Hospitals rolled out a digital resilience course to 10 sites.](#)
- A geriatrics and acute general medicine consultant shared his perspective on [using](#).

IT policy case studies: Secondary care

- [Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust shared what had been involved with transferring legacy data into future-fit IT systems.](#)
- [Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust's £3m savings result from its latest digital transformation project with Riverbed.](#)

Digital inclusion

- Gilbert and Tobin published an article on [the pitfalls of digital health care in a post-Covid world.](#)
- The 100% Digital Leeds programme within the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) reported that [digital inclusion is not being pushed as strongly around the country as it is in Leeds due to strict budgets and the financial struggles of councils and the NHS.](#)
- BMJ Health published an article on [quantifying digital health inequality across a national healthcare system.](#)
- Express reported that [older patients increasingly face digital barriers in their struggle to see a GP face-to-face.](#)
- [A study in Scotland explored the health inequalities associated with the NHS's ongoing digital transformation agenda.](#)

Digital capabilities of the workforce

- [We are accelerating the Reform Fund to support innovation in local areas to boost the quality and accessibility of adult social care in England.](#)
- [Patients at Guy's and St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust will benefit from introducing new software to deliver safer, more coordinated community care.](#)
- NPJ Digital Medicine published an article on [educating the future healthcare workforce: lessons learned from developing and implementing a 'Wearables in Healthcare' course.](#)
- [CEO of the Health Innovation Network South London and Director of Communications at the HIN explored the transformative potential of digital initiatives in enhancing NHS staff experiences.](#)

Innovation

- MedTech reported that [University Hospital Birmingham delivered improved outcomes for head and neck cancer patients, with reduced surgery times of up to three hours using tailored, 3D-printed cutting guides.](#)
- [NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter has supported a 300% increase in patients thanks to its transformation into a diagnostic community hub and the installation of new medical imaging and diagnostic technology from Canon Medical Systems UK.](#)

- [The Medical Device Manufacturing Centre was awarded £3.35 million of additional funding from Scottish Enterprise to continue its work developing novel medical device innovation and improve the industry's sustainability.](#)
- The Health Tech Alliance explained [the importance of digital innovation within virtual wards.](#)
- [NHS trialled an artificial intelligence system to prevent avoidable admissions.](#)

Seamless referrals & appointments

Relevant webpages include: [/bookings](#)

- [NHS England's Transformation Directorate's BaRS programme](#) aims to enable [booking and referral information to be sent between NHS service providers in a format that is helpful to clinicians.](#) The intention is for BaRS to be available in all care settings eventually. The [minutes and slides from the group's previous meetings](#) contain additional information about BaRS and pharmacy use cases. CP ITG feedback indicated that the BaRS programme should be expanded to incorporate NHS appointment standards.
- The government has previously set targets for increasing the digital options for patients using the NHS, e.g., booking appointments online and ordering repeat prescriptions online. NHS App is one app that provides such functionality, but other apps and websites aligning with relevant NHS IT standards are also increasing digital patient interactions. NHS App updates are outlined within the [NHS App sections of Appendix CPITG 04/06/23.](#)
- NHS England published a report on [Recording GP appointments: consolidated guidance.](#)

Optimal principles across all pharmacy IT

Relevant webpage(s) include: [/itworkflow](#) and [/itcontingency](#)

AI: governance and principles

- NPJ Digital Medicine published an article on [adopting and expanding ethical principles for generative artificial intelligence from the military to healthcare.](#)
- Standing Together published an article exploring the potential for Artificial Intelligence (AI) to benefit health, which must be balanced against the risks posed by algorithmic bias and harm.
- [An expert panel at Digital Health's AI and Data event suggested that complex issues around consent in AI and data cannot be addressed through legal processes or by focusing on patients' rights and autonomy.](#)

About CP ITG

CP ITG voting members nominated by AIMp, CCA, NPA, Community Pharmacy England, and RPS: Matthew Armstrong (Chair), Steve Ash, David Broome (Vice Chair), Darryl Dethick, David Evans, Nick Kaye, Sunil Kochhar, Fin McCaul, Graham Phillips, Darren Powell, George Radford, Craig Spurdle, Iqbal Vorajee and Heidi Wright.

The wider CP ITG: Other pharmacy representatives, system supplier representatives and representatives from the NHS England pharmacy team, NHS England's Transformation Directorate, NHSBSA, DHSC and PRSB.

Secretariat: Dan Ah-Thion.

Social media: To publicly tweet about the group/meeting use: [#cpitg](#)

Date of last main meeting: Wednesday 8th November 2023.

Next main meetings: 5th June 2024, 19th September 2024, 6th November 2024, 5th March 2025.

Comments or feedback: You can email Dan Ah-Thion (it@cpe.org.uk) with comments that support progress on the priority areas.