NHS Evidence has Changed

Health and social care is changing and NHS Evidence is changing with it.

Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS promises an ‘information revolution’ for patients and professionals to help deliver high quality health and social care services. In the new system, information needs to be accessible to all, relevant and well structured.

NHS Evidence (www.evidence.nhs.uk) makes it easy to access a wide range of evidence-based information. It is the place to go to find out what best practice looks like as well as how to deliver it.

All health and social care staff want to provide the highest standard of care, and better access to good information will help them make clinical excellence a reality. To support users, we have broadened the types of information available and ensured the very best resources are clearly signposted.

This leaflet tells you more about the exciting changes and how NHS Evidence is putting staff and their patients and clients at the heart of the information revolution.

**NHS Evidence…so far**

- A simple search provides access to more than 250,000 health and social care resources.
- Two thirds of users are clinicians.
- Up to 1.2 million searches performed in one month.
- 95 per cent of Athens account holders use the Health Databases Advanced Search on NHS Evidence to access databases, e-books and journals. Around 2.5 million searches are conducted by users each month on key databases including Embase and Medline.
- 80 per cent of users within healthcare believe NHS Evidence helps them to find the most up-to-date information.
- 75 per cent of users within healthcare believe NHS Evidence improves the quality of information available.

www.evidence.nhs.uk

provided by NICE
Accessing public health information

NHS Evidence can support public health practitioners working across a range of settings, including local and national government, academic institutions and provider organisations.

The simple search facility provides access to national collections of evidence in areas such as ethnicity and health, screening and commissioning.

- Topic pages provide better access to evidence-based information including public health guidance and research uncertainties.
- To keep up-to-date with the latest significant research, users can receive evidence updates and notifications in their area of interest or specialty.
- Key public health resources include the Faculty of Public Health, Association of Public Health Observatories and Health Protection Agency.

Use NHS Evidence to find:

- guidelines
- systematic reviews
- interventions
- policies
- commissioning guides
- primary research

Empowering health and social care professionals

Access to relevant content

The simple search facility provides access to relevant national collections of evidence in areas such as stroke, diabetes and cardiovascular health.

Other content includes a new focus on medicines information. NHS Evidence now provides access to the British National Formulary, presented in a format that recognises the requirements of professionals. Users can also access resources collated by the National electronic Library for Medicines, electronic Medicines Compendium and products developed by the National Prescribing Centre.

www.evidence.nhs.uk
New clinical topic pages provide access to the latest guidelines, high quality patient information, research uncertainties and other selected information across a wide range of conditions. Users can also register to get updates on changes to guidance.

NHS staff who have an Athens account continue to get free access to eight key databases of evidence (e.g. Medline, HMIC), e-books and key journals (e.g. BMJ, JAMA). These resources are useful for extensive literature searches across a range of areas including management, social care, nursing and pharmacology. The service is already widely used and access to content has not changed.

“Fast and free access to the British National Formulary through NHS Evidence means all prescribers can be confident that they are following the latest advice.”
- Tristan Gildroy, Community Pharmacist, Bradford.

NICE quality standards are based on NICE guidance and other accredited guidance.

Driving up the quality of information

A key vision for health and social care is to achieve quality and outcomes that are among the best in the world; to realise this, health and social care staff need to know which sources of guidance will help them deliver the highest standard of care. The NHS Evidence Accreditation Scheme rigorously assesses the processes used by organisations to produce guidance. Organisations that meet the strict criteria can display the NHS Evidence accreditation mark on their guidance.

Around 30 organisations have already been, or are going through the NHS Evidence Accreditation Scheme and many guidance producers are reviewing their processes in line with the accreditation criteria. Plans are currently underway to expand the scope of the scheme to include commissioning and social care information.

“NHS Evidence returns only relevant, selected information so I can use it while in consultation with a patient. For example, if a new patient comes into my clinic with a query about their medication, I can quickly get up to speed with their treatment by accessing the latest prescribing information from the British National Formulary. I can access summaries of product characteristics to improve and broaden my knowledge and use the Q&As from UK Medicines Information to respond to more unusual questions. My favourite feature is the patient information which facilitates a shared understanding and empowers choices. Access to NHS Evidence helps me foster a culture of accessing evidence-based information early on so that I emerge from my training as a better professional.”
- Dr Louisa Coyle, GP Registrar, Northallerton Vocational Training Scheme.
Supporting local decision-making

NHS Evidence now provides access to NICE pathways which allow users to easily visualise and browse associated NICE products online. Pathways cover all NICE products including technology appraisals, interventional procedures, clinical guidelines, medical technology and diagnostics guidance, quality standards, public health guidance and accompanying tools produced by NICE to support implementation.

NICE Pathways make NICE guidance easier to navigate.

Supporting the drive to improve efficiency

Now more than ever, health and social care staff need to be delivering more for less – demonstrating that money is being spent wisely, to best effect, and with the best possible outcomes. The QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) collection on NHS Evidence is a central resource in helping staff locally and nationally meet the efficiency challenge. Resources include monthly reports on potential disinvestment topics which are derived from reviews conducted by the UK Cochrane Centre and access to a growing database of more than 100 evidence-based case studies showing how staff locally and nationally are improving quality of care in the most efficient way possible.

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