

Welcome to the Patients Association's Weekly News



Government accepts multiple recommendations from independent inquiry into Paterson



The Government has accepted nine recommendations from the Paterson Inquiry report, published last year. The inquiry, led by the Right Reverend Graham James, former bishop of Norwich made 17 recommendations in all: the Government has accepted nine of those recommendations entirely, five in principle, not accepted two, although it is keeping one under review, and is yet to make a decision on one recommendation.

Most significant, is that the health system has to provide patient-centred information to enable patients, their families and carers to make informed decisions about their treatment and care. And when things do go wrong, patients must have the confidence that the entire system will work to put things right.

We worked with the Government to share patients' views while it was developing its response to the enquiry.

A focus group held in October brought together patients and carers who had not been affected by Paterson, to understand their views on the broader patient safety principles that should be considered in the Government's response.

Ian Paterson was sentenced to 20 years in prison for wounding resulting from carrying out unnecessary surgery on scores of patients that left many people disfigured. The inquiry found that victims were "lied to, deceived and exploited".

James said, when the inquiry was published: "The scale of what happened; the length of time this malpractice went on; the terrible legacy for so many families: it is difficult to exaggerate the damage done, including to trust in medical organisations and clinicians."

[Read the Government's response in full](#)

Survey closes next Friday



**HOW HAS COVID-19
AFFECTED YOU?**

Complete our patient survey to let us know

 **the patients association**

As you'll all know by now, the pandemic situation is changing rapidly and that's having a knock on effect on healthcare services.

We've had a fantastic response to our survey so far, but if you've not yet completed our patient experience survey we would love to hear from you, and to find out how the push to roll out the booster doses is affecting every day healthcare.

It only takes about seven minutes to [complete online](#). If you find it easier, you can call our free helpline and one of our advisers will take down your answers: call 0800 345 7115 between 9:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday.

The survey will close on Christmas Eve and we'll publish the findings in January.

[Take the survey](#)

Call for patient to join working group to review cancer medicine



Photo by [National Cancer Institute](#) on [Unsplash](#) .

The [Medicines Repurposing Programme](#) is looking for a patient with experience of breast cancer to join a new working group.

The group will support the use of an existing medicine, anastrozole, in a new way: to help prevent breast cancer.

The Repurposing Medicines Programme's aims are:

- To identify medicines that are already in use that could be used to improve outcomes, patient experience and value for money
- Facilitate and encourage the licensing of medicines that are commonly prescribed off-label to support clinical decision making and improve equity of access
- Support and advance innovative and new research into medicines that might be repurposed and us in the NHS.

Candidates for the anastrozole group should have detailed knowledge of breast cancer and current options for prevention and / or treatment from a patient perspective. The role is voluntary, however, reasonable out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. The time commitment is approximately 1-2 hours every month for about 18 months.

For further information and details of how to apply, please email england.repurposing@nhs.net. The closing

date is Tuesday 4th January 2022.

From the helpline GP refuses minor surgery



Susan* called our helpline to ask about the rules around minor surgery in general practice, because her practice had told her it couldn't help her.

Susan has keratosis pilaris, a dry skin condition that causes tiny bumps, on her back. It's harmless but rubs on her bra strap and causes her discomfort.

Because of this, she asked if the GP could remove it but the GP told her the practice wouldn't be paid for doing that. Susan called because recently her partner had had polyps removed in the practice and she knew of other patients had received minor surgery at the practice.

Our adviser suggested Susan call the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and to ask if there is a budgetary restriction that applies to the procedure she wanted. He explained the role of the CCG as the commissioner of services. He also suggested that if the CCG said there were restrictions, to ask what alternative it could recommend to her.

*Name changed to protect privacy.

To contact our helpline team, call 0800 3457115 between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays or email helpline@patients-association.org.uk.

The helpline will close for Christmas at 5pm on 23rd December. It will reopen at 9.30am on 4th January. While our advisers are unavailable, you can visit [our website](#) for more ways to get in touch. And remember - we have a lot of information on our website.

What our team is reading this week

[Omicron likely biggest threat of COVID pandemic so far, says UK health chief](#)

[Scotland's Omicron guidance 'much clearer' than UK's, says health expert Andrew Hayward](#)

[How long does it take before a booster jab becomes effective?](#)

[Northern Ireland health worker attacks pass 5,500 in just six months](#)

[MHRA guidance on the use of real-world data in clinical studies to support regulatory decisions](#)

About Us

Our purpose is to ensure that everybody can access and benefit from the health and care they need to live well, by ensuring that services are designed and delivered through equal partnership with patients.

Our strategic focus for 2021-25 is patient partnership in the design and delivery of health and care services.

We are a registered charity raising all our own funds. If you'd like to support our work for all patients and make a difference, please [donate or consider making a regular donation](#). Thank you.

 [Share](#)

 [Tweet](#)

 [Forward](#)

Copyright 2021 The Patients Association, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you subscribed to the Patients Association Weekly News. If you no longer wish to receive it and wish to unsubscribe, please follow the links contained in this email.

Our mailing address is:

The Patients Association

PO BOX 935

London, England HA1 3YJ

United Kingdom