

# NHS Hot Topics

20 minutes discussion  
25 Minutes Q&A from students

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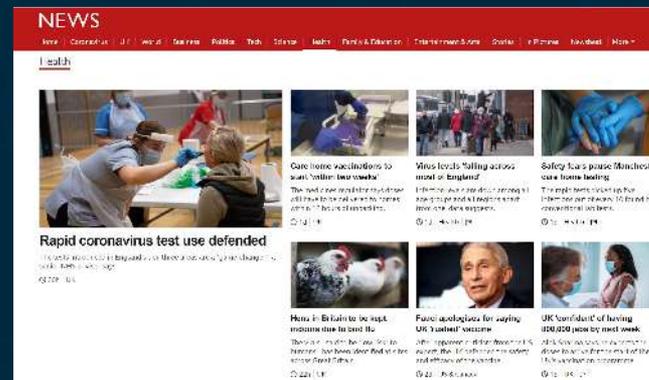


# Housekeeping and Introductions:

- We will send a recording and slides out within 48 hours
- Q&A section at the end
- Please use the Upvote system
- We will be using poll questions, get involved!

# Start reading!

- Common interview topic
- Great way to demonstrate enthusiasm for the subject and your wider reading
- Easy way to impress your interviewers
- Use this as a starting point: do your own reading, especially on topics you're particularly interested in
  - Books
  - Newspapers and websites
  - British Medical Journal
  - I will go over these later on!





**In which year was the  
NHS formed?**

# Introduction to the NHS

- The NHS was established in 1948 following the end of the Second World War
- In 1942 it was a core component of the Beveridge report that proposed a post-war form of government now often referred to as the 'welfare state'
- Campaigned for by Aneurin Bevan, the current Health Minister and member of the Labour Party from 1946
- 3 key principles at its launch
  - That it meets the needs of everyone
  - That it be free at the point of delivery
  - That it be based on clinical need, not ability to pay
- Funded primarily by general taxation

**Between the start of the pandemic and September, how many items of PPE have been delivered to health and social care settings?**

# Covid19 and NHS PPE



- In March NHS officials said there were **2 existing stockpiles**: 1 for a pandemic and 1 for no-deal Brexit
- However, it was not taken into account that these stockpiles contained equipment needed to address an **influenza** outbreak rather than a virus like coronavirus
- In February, PPE guidelines advised fluid repellent gowns and FFP3 respirators but in March the **guidance had changed** to plastic aprons and surgical masks
- One major downfall in the procurement of PPE was the lack of experience of NHS Supply Chain Coordination Ltd who had **no experience sourcing** PPE from overseas.
- In April, 50 million masks had to be scrapped as they **did not meet safety requirements** in a contract worth £252 million
- NHS staff have been forced to **wash and reuse** 'single use' PPE

# Who is top priority for the Covid19 vaccination?

# Covid19 Vaccine

- The UK will soon be rolling out the **Pfizer vaccine**
- **mRNA** vaccine
  - mRNA sequence for the virus antigen synthesised
  - Synthesised mRNA packaged into lipid nanoparticle
  - Injected into recipient whose own cells will use the mRNA sequence to produce the viral antigen, which is presented on the cell surface leading to an immune response
- **3** modes of delivery
  - Hospitals, mass vaccination centres, GPs and pharmacies
- **Care home residents** to be vaccinated first
  - Extremely vulnerable due to age
  - Care homes have also experienced any outbreaks during the pandemic (Cases of Covid patients discharged from hospital back into care homes)
- Fears of **misinformation** spreading online



# Brexit and the NHS

- The NHS currently has a **staff shortage** and relies on overseas recruitment to fill vacancies. Will Brexit have an impact on **recruitment** of staff from the EU?
- Long term economic impact of Brexit may **disincentivise** people coming to the UK to work in the NHS
- If the UK leaves the European Medicines Agency it may lose its 'tier 1' market status and therefore move to the '**back of the queue**' for **new medicines**
- **Supplies** of medicines to the UK may be **interrupted**, what will the impact be if there's a shortage of medications?
- Trade deal with the US



# Dr Bawa-Garba

- **Dr Bawa-Garba** was a speciality registrar working in Children's Assessment Unit
- In 2011, Jack, a 6 year old boy with Down's Syndrome and a heart defect, presented with diarrhoea, vomiting and difficulty breathing
- A series of errors led to Jack dying from a **cardiac arrest** due to **sepsis**
- Included **mistaken identity** with a patient with a DNAR, leading to doctors stopping CPR for 2 minutes and Dr Bawa-Garba **not highlighting** Jack's worrying blood results
- In 2014 Dr Bawa-Garba was charged with **gross negligence manslaughter** and convicted in 2015
- She is **suspended** from working for 12 months but the GMC appeal to have her **struck off**
- GPs sign letter in **protest** of the case, with fears that **portfolio/reflection** could be used against doctors in cases similar to this
- **£300,000 raised** to support Dr Bawa-Garba's legal challenge
- Highlighted the extreme **stress** and **pressure** facing doctors in the NHS and lack of staff
- Created worry surrounding making **mistakes** and the possible **legal sanctions**
- New measures in place to **protect doctors** and nurses when **errors** are made

# Where Can I Read About Hot Topics?

- British Medical Journal
- BBC News Health
- Newspapers: be aware of bias!
- [nhs.com/news/](https://www.nhs.uk/news/)
- If you have a particular interest, 'A Very Short Introduction to...' series
- Some other topics you may want to have a look at
  - A&E wait times
  - Antibiotic resistance
  - Stem cell therapies
  - Growing mental health crisis
  - Big data and medicine
  - The impact of lockdown: delay in patients presenting, mental health
  - Ethics, consent and confidentiality