

More support for women experiencing the menopause

- The cost of repeatable HRT prescriptions will be cut
- Move set to save women who rely on HRT hundreds of pounds per year
- New government Menopause Taskforce to be co-chaired by Minister for Women's Health, Maria Caulfield and Carolyn Harris MP

Women will benefit from cheaper and easier access to Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) to relieve symptoms of the menopause following commitments made in Parliament at the second reading of Carolyn Harris MPs' Private Members' Bill.

Working with NHS England, the government will look to implement longer prescribing cycles, in line with NICE guidelines, so women receive fewer prescriptions, reducing the need to pay frequent prescription charges. The government has asked NHS England to review current practice and the barriers to implementing NICE guidelines.

This could mean women would only have to pay one charge for up to a 12 month supply of HRT, saving up to £205 per year as a result.

To further improve access to HRT prescriptions, the government has also committed to look into combining two hormone treatments into one prescription, which affects approximately 10% of women accessing HRT.

Under current rules HRT is sometimes classed as two medicines if it contains both Oestrogen and Progesterone meaning women may be charged twice for one course of treatment.

Minister for Women's Health, Maria Caulfield said:

We have heard loud and clear from women across the country and MPs that menopause support is a key issue we as a government need to do more to address.

As a woman and a nurse, I am acutely aware of how challenging the symptoms of the menopause can be to live with.

Cutting the cost of HRT – which can be a lifeline to women severely impacted by menopause – is a great stride forward, but there is more to do.

I look forward to further addressing the menopause as part of the Women's Health Strategy and working with Carolyn on improving support for women across the UK.

Early analysis of the Women's Health Strategy Call for Evidence, which

received the biggest ever response to a Department for Health and Social Care consultation with over 110,000 individual responses earlier this year, shows access to HRT and wider menopause support are key concerns for older women. Menopause will form a central part of the first ever government-led Women's Health Strategy, and will consider how to improve access to HRT including through education and training for clinicians on symptoms of the menopause and to ensure HRT is being prescribed to women who would benefit from it.

Alongside the development of the first ever Women's Health Strategy for England, a new cross-government Menopause Taskforce will be established co-chaired by the Minister for Women's Health and Carolyn Harris MP will be established. The task force will consider the role of education and training, workplace policies and peer groups for menopausal women can play in supporting women through what can be a mentally and physically challenging time.

Carolyn Harris MP said:

Today is a result for women across the country. The Bill was never about wins for either side of the political divide – it was about wins the 51% of the population who will directly experience the menopause.

The cost of HRT NHS prescriptions will be slashed – with the Government committing to working towards getting this down to a single prescription charge per year – and the new task force will look at all the other areas of support which are currently falling short and failing women.

I look forward to working with the Minister to revolutionise menopause support in this country and being world leaders in changing the narrative on something that has been a taboo subject for far too long.

To further support women going through the menopause the Civil Service is developing their first workplace menopause policy to ensure women can continue to work to their full potential.

This work is part of the ongoing government commitment to drive Women's Health to the top of the agenda, ensuring the health and care system works for everyone, and enabling women to live healthy, happy lives.

[MHRA publishes clear guidance to](#)

support bringing e-cigarettes to market as licensed therapies

Press release

The MHRA is committed to responding to the Tobacco Control Plan and supports the UK Government's vision for a smoke-free generation by encouraging safe, high-quality and effective e-cigarette products to be licensed as medicines.



Today (29 October 2021) the MHRA published updated [‘Guidance for licensing electronic cigarettes and other inhaled nicotine-containing products as medicines’](#). This updated guidance comes after a consultation with the E-Cigarette Expert Working Group, a group of UK experts who provided independent oversight and advice to the MHRA.

The updated guidance provides further details on the steps required to license an e-cigarette as a medicinal product. To achieve a licence, products would need to meet the standards of quality, safety, and efficacy expected of medicinal products. If successful, this would potentially allow safe and effective products to be made available for prescription, for tobacco smokers who wish to quit or reduce smoking.

As stated in the Department of Health and Social Care 2017 Tobacco Control Plan, the evidence is clear that e-cigarettes are less harmful to health than smoking tobacco. Nicotine-containing e-cigarettes can help people to stop smoking, and are similarly effective to other cessation options. The MHRA are committed to improving the public's access to safe and effective licensed products.

Dr June Raine, Chief Executive of the MHRA, said:

The evidence is clear that e-cigarettes are less harmful to health than smoking tobacco and that nicotine-containing e-cigarettes can help people quit smoking for good. The updated guidance on licensing requirements we have published today is a strong first step towards availability of safe and effective licensed e-

cigarette products.

The MHRA will continue to support companies in the development of safe and effective e-cigarette products, to encourage the licensing of e-cigarette products as medicines in order to support patient-centred care and access.

Notes to editors

1. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in the UK, by ensuring they work and are acceptably safe. All our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits justify any risks.

Published 29 October 2021

[Michael Lynton has been reappointed as a Trustee of the Tate](#)

News story

The Prime Minister has reappointed Michael Lynton as a Trustee of the Tate for a term of four years, from 22 June 2021 to 21 June 2025.



Michael Lynton currently serves on the Board of Snap, Inc., Warner Music Group, and the Smithsonian. He served as the CEO of Sony Entertainment from April 2012 until February 2017, overseeing Sony's global entertainment businesses, including Sony Music Entertainment, Sony/ATV Music Publishing and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Michael also served as Chairman and CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment since

January 2004. Prior to joining Sony Pictures, he worked for Time Warner and served as CEO of AOL Europe, President of AOL International and President of Time Warner International, and earlier served as Chairman and CEO of Pearson PLC's Penguin Group where he oversaw the acquisition of Putnam, Inc. and extended the Penguin brand to music and the Internet.

Tate Trustees are not remunerated. This reappointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's [Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Michael Lynton has not declared any activity.

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[Suspension of PGL settings on Ofsted childcare register](#)

Press release

Ofsted finds serious safeguarding issues at 4 PGL settings and immediately suspends each of the registrations.



This week we undertook inspections of 5 PGL centres providing Ofsted-registered care and activities for unaccompanied children on half-term holidays. Having found serious safeguarding issues at 4 of these sites, we have taken the decision to immediately suspend each of the 4 registrations.

Some of the concerns identified are being investigated by other agencies and we are unable to provide specific details at this stage. But we can advise that they include environmental health concerns, health and safety issues, and the conduct of staff – including substance misuse.

PGL provides residential breaks and activity holidays for children aged 7 -17 and operates from centres across the UK and France. Ofsted is only able to inspect PGL's registered childcare provision in England. We do not have any power to inspect or regulate the other activities that PGL runs for children who are accompanied by their schools or parents.

The settings that have had their registration suspended are:

- Liddington, Wiltshire
- Marchants Hill, Surrey
- Osmington Bay, Dorset
- Windmill Hill, East Sussex

We recognise the impact this decision will have on many families. PGL has a duty to inform affected parents urgently, and we have requested contact details in order to do the same.

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[Increased risk of deer collisions as clocks go back](#)

Press release

National Highways and British Deer Society warn drivers to be extra vigilant for deer on or near roads after the clocks go back this weekend



Drivers are being asked to be DeerAware this Autumn

There is a substantial increase in deer vehicle collisions from October to December. Poorer driving conditions and fewer hours of daylight, coupled with the annual breeding season (the rut) for red, sika & fallow deer make this a high-risk time of year.

Research over the years by the DeerAware campaign has also found that the risk increases after the clock change at the end of October. This is because drivers find themselves more likely to be on the road when deer are most active from sunset to midnight and the hours shortly before and after sunrise.

National Highways Head of Road User Safety Jeremy Phillips said:

As the clocks go back this weekend, journeys next week may feel different for many drivers even on familiar routes. This time of year we see an increase in the number of deer collisions and our advice is to take care while driving and look out for deer. Drivers may easily be caught unaware on roads they travel everyday by the sudden appearance of deer in their path, but there are some simple tips they can use to help reduce the risk.

The advice to drivers is:

1. When you see deer warning signs or are travelling through a heavily wooded or forested stretch of road, check your speed and stay alert
2. If your headlights are on, use full-beams when you can, but dip them if you see deer as they may 'freeze' on the spot instead of leaving the road
3. If you see a deer, look for another. They often gather in herds and follow each other as they move through the landscape.
4. Only brake sharply and stop if there is no danger of being hit by following traffic, use your hazard lights. Try to come to a stop as far away from an animal as possible to enable it to leave the roadside without panic. Try not to suddenly swerve to avoid a deer. Hitting oncoming traffic or another obstacle could lead to a more serious collision.
5. If you must stop, use your hazard warning lights

Many drivers have said that being aware of the risk of a deer collision has helped them avoid a collision. However, if you do find yourself involved in a collision:

- keep yourself and anyone with you as safe as you can.
- park your car in the safest place with hazard lights on. Consider using it to also warn other road users.
- call an ambulance if human injuries warrant it.
- call the police.

The police can also contact specialists to deal with injured deer. Never try to move deer off the road yourself as this will put you at great risk of injury.

For more information visit [DeerAware](#)

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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