

COVID-19 situation in India

Statement by
the Commonwealth Secretary-General

Speaking on the impact of the latest surge in COVID-19 cases in India, the Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said:

"On behalf of the whole Commonwealth family, I want to express our deep concern and solidarity with the people and the Government of India as your national agencies mobilise to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and as the latest wave of infection continues to spread so distressingly in your country.

"We are immensely grateful for the support provided by the Government of India to small and vulnerable member countries of the Commonwealth earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic, it was an immensely generous and practical response to this global emergency.

"And as your country so compassionately acted to support others in their time of need your fellow Commonwealth nations and the institutions which serve them would wish to do all we can to reciprocate in that same spirit of mutual support.

"As such we stand ready to assist in any way that we can and have called a Commonwealth Secretariat rapid response meeting to consider what practical support the Commonwealth Secretariat and our member countries might offer together to be able to help you with your heavy burden.

"As a family of nations, we value our brothers and sisters in India and we, along with the wider Indian diaspora, all of whom have family and friends affected, share your anguish at the impact of this devastating and terrible disease and commit to supporting the Government and people of India in any way possible."

Source: Commonwealth secretariat



Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust to provide pioneering spinal treatment



Picture credit: lifescienceindustrynews

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust has announced that it has become one of only 11 centres in the country able to provide the Nusinersen drug to treat spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in adults.

Honorary Consultant Neurologist at the MDU at Salford Royal, Dr James Lilleker, said: "The launch of the service is an important step forward for patients being able to access disease modifying treatments. He explained that this is the first time this treatment has been available to adults living with SMA in the North West and represents an important milestone in the expansion and development of the Muscle Diseases Unit.

It is expected that up to 100 patients are set to receive the treatment at Salford Royal over the next 12 months. This pioneering treatment will help improve the lives of people living with muscle debilitating conditions."

Nusinersen has commonly been used to treat spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in children. Now for the first time this has been approved for use in adults. SMA affects the nerves in the spinal cord, making muscles weaker and causing problems with movement, breathing and swallowing. Nusinersen is the first treatment that targets the underlying cause of SMA. The treatment works by increasing the levels of a special protein produced by nerve cells in the spinal cord.

Nusinersen, marketed as Spinraza, and used in treating spinal muscular and a rare neuromuscular disorder. First approved in December 2016, it became the first approved drug, has been orphan drug designation in the United States and the European Union.

Phillip Kelly, Neuromuscular Specialist Nurse and Care Advisor in the Muscle Diseases Unit (MDU) at Salford Royal, said: "Despite being in the midst of a global pandemic, we have been working incredibly hard to develop this new service, which we hope will vastly improve quality of life for patients living with SMA."

Diary Dates

Midyear Virtual Conference
7TH - 8TH AUGUST, 2021

Annual Conference
(in person)

12-13TH FEBRUARY, 2022

Kolkata, India

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Royal College of Psychiatrists

VIRTUAL

International Congress 2021

21-24 June 2021



Dr Santosh Mudholkar

*Finalist, Psychiatrist of the Year 2000
RCPsych Awards 2020*

Dr Mudholkar is Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist with Nottinghamshire Mental Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. He is the immediate past President of British Indian Psychiatric Association (BIPA) and Associate Registrar (Membership Engagement), Royal College of Psychiatrists, London. He was awarded the prestigious Priory Research Fellowship at the Academic Department of Psychiatry, Charing Cross Hospital, Imperial College London. He is lead Editor for Mental Health Section of Swasthya, a Journal for Healthcare Professionals.



Dr Fabida Aria

*Chair-elect, Transcultural Psychiatry,
Special Interest Group (SIG), RCPsych*

Dr Aryi is Consultant psychiatrist in assertive outreach team and pave team Associate Medical director for adult mental health and mental health services for older people, Leicestershire partnership NHS Trust, Royal college regional advisor for Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. She is a member of Swasthya's Editorial Advisory Board



Mr Buddhdev Pandya MBE

*Awarded: Fellows of the Institute
of International Organisational
Psychological Medicine*

Mr Pandya is Founder and Managing Editor of Swasthya, a Journal for Healthcare Professionals. One of the key founders of British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin and served as Director for 22 years. Helped to found Medical defence Shield worked as Dpt CEO. Served a Director of Racial Equality. Also, worked as Chief Officer for British International Doctors Association and as Director for the British Indian Psychiatrists Association. He has established many mental health projects.



Prof Dua to becomes High Sheriff

Prof. Harminder Singh Dua CBE has also the 453rd High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, UK. Prof. Dua is ophthalmologist. In 2013, Dr. Dua & his team discovered a previously undetected layer in the cornea which was named after dubbed Dua's Layer after Dr. Dua's discovery.

Currently he is the President of the European Association for Vision and Eye Research Foundation (EVERf) (2016-) and Editor in chief of the Journal of EuCornea (European society of Cornea and Ocular Surface Disease Specialists) (2015-). He is a Bord Member, International Council of Ophthalmology (2018-).

Chair and Professor of Ophthalmology, Head of the Academic Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Nottingham, And Consultant Ophthalmologist, University Hospital, Queen's Medical Centre NHS Trust, Nottingham.

Commander of the most excellent order of the British Empire (CBE). 2019, For services to Eye Healthcare, health education and Ophthalmology.

Recognised in the Queen's Honours List

Dr Mohammad Tayyab HAIDER Medical Director, Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. For services to the NHS, particularly during the Covid-19 Response and to the community in Essex.

Professor Partha Sarathi KAR Consultant and Endocrinologist, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust. For services to People with Diabetes.

Professor Farah Naz Kausar BHATTI Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon. For services to Diversity in the NHS in Wales-Swansea.

Marianne Saleisha Cwynarski Managing Director, Governance Office and Secretary, House of Commons Commission. For services to Parliament
Dr Harnovdeep Singh BHARAJ Consultant, Diabetes and General Medicine, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. For services to People with Diabetes in the South Asian Community (Bolton, Greater Manchester)

Dr Nalini Jitendra Modha, General Practitioner, Thistleminor Medical Centre, for services to NHS.
Harjinder Kaur KANDOLA Chief Executive, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust. For services to Mental Health, particularly during the Covid-19 Response (Arlesey, Bedfordshire)

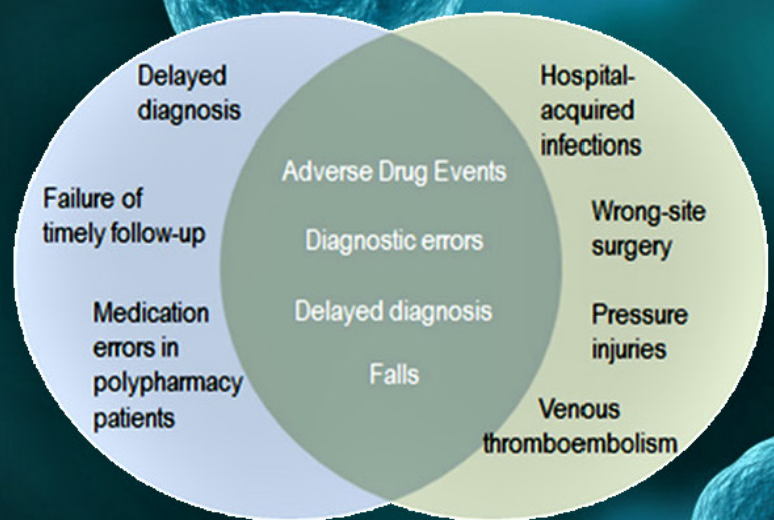
Renuka Priyadarshini Dent Chartered Educational Psychologist, Director of Operations and Deputy CEO of Coram UK, for services to Children and Families.

Improve patient safety by eliminating adverse events in health care settings

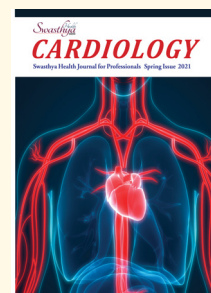
It is estimated that every year more than 300,000 patients acquire a healthcare associated infection (HCAI, HAI or nosocomial infection) as a result of care with in the NHS.

Primary and ambulatory care

Hospital care



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