



BMJ in the News is a weekly digest of national and international news coverage in English for BMJ, The BMJ, and BMJ Journals.

The content is provided daily by Cision and Google Alerts. The views expressed are those of the individual journalists/outlets: they are intended to represent the breadth of media coverage, not endorsement by BMJ or the media relations team.

Coverage for 20-26 March 2023

PRESS RELEASES

[BMJ](#)

[The BMJ](#) | [BMJ Medicine](#)
[BMJ Global Health](#) | [Injury Prevention](#)

EXTERNAL PRESS RELEASES

[BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health](#)
[BMJ Open](#) | [BMJ Quality & Safety](#)
[British Journal of Sports Medicine](#) | [Gut](#)

OTHER COVERAGE

[The BMJ](#) | [Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases](#)
[Archives of Disease in Childhood](#) | [BMJ Case Reports](#)
[BMJ Global Health](#) | [BMJ Health & Care Informatics](#)
[BMJ Innovations](#) | [BMJ Medicine](#)
[BMJ Open](#) | [BMJ Open Respiratory Research](#)
[BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine](#)
[BMJ Quality & Safety](#)
[BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health](#)
[British Journal of Sports Medicine](#)
[Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin](#)
[Emergency Medicine Journal](#) | [Gut](#) | [Heart](#)
[Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer](#)
[Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health](#)
[Journal of Medical Ethics](#)
[Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry](#)
[Occupational & Environmental Medicine](#)
[Open Heart](#) | [Thorax](#)

[INFLUENCE](#)

[BMJ](#)

[BMJ signs its first Read and Publish agreement in the U.S.](#) STM Publishing News 20/3/23
[Discover the real-world impact of your medical and health research](#) Research Information
21/3/23

The BMJ press release coverage

Research: [Comparative effectiveness and safety of analgesic medicines for adults with acute non-specific low back pain: systematic review and network meta-analysis](#)

[Taking ibuprofen for a bad back might do more harm than good](#) Daily Express 22/3/23
[‘Considerable uncertainty’ surrounding effectiveness of taking painkillers for back pain, study finds](#) The Irish Times 22/3/23

[Warning as taking painkillers for sore back may cause 'unpleasant' side effects](#) Daily Record
22/3/23

Also in: The Independent, Pulse, News-Medical.Net, Medical XPress, MSN UK, Mirage News Australia, Daijiworld.com, Can-India News Online, INDIA New England Online, The Western Mail, Wales Online, Big News Network, Nationaltribune.com.au, Samachar Central, Technocodex, Today's Chronic, News Concerns, Sound Health and Lasting Wealth, TheDailyCheck.net, Newsy People

Research: [Estimated impact from the withdrawal of primary care financial incentives on selected indicators of quality of care in Scotland: controlled interrupted time series analysis](#) + **Editorial:** [Quality improvement in primary care](#)

[Abolition of QOF in Scotland linked to decline in quality of care](#) Practice Nurse 22/3/23
[Ending GP performance pay in Scotland linked to decline in quality of some care](#) Medical XPress 22/3/23

Also in: News-Medical.Net, Dailynews Era, Health medicine Network, Mirage News Australia, Scienmag

Further coverage for pandemic impact on mental health (PR):

[Covid has not affected people's happiness around the world, study reveals](#) The Independent
20/3/23

[Why we still can't quantify the pandemic's impact on our mental health](#) New Statesman
22/3/23

Also in: [CNN Opinion](#), New York Post Online, The World News, Yahoo News UK, News Directory, News Break, Time Bulletin USA, Frontline Lifestyle & Business Online, Specialty Pharmacy Times Online, The European Times, PracticeUpdate.com

Further coverage for GMC's fast food investments (PR):

[How doctors fund fast food companies responsible for obesity like McDonald's and Coca-Cola](#) deliciousfood.com 20/3/23

Further coverage for opioid treatment for new mothers (PR):

[New mothers should not be denied opioid painkillers after childbirth, a new study says](#)
Evening Standard 20/3/23

Also in: Drugs.com, Physician's Weekly Online + widespread US regional print outlets

Other notable coverage

[Statin users at risk of 'cardiovascular disease'](#) Daily Express 20/3/23

Also in: Today News Post, MSN Arabia, Vietnam Explorer, Pedfire, Technocodex, [Urgent course correction needed on climate change, economic policy, and NHI](#) (Fiona Godlee quoted on climate change and health) Business Weekly 21/3/2023

Also in: [allafrica.com](#)

[Not so fast on COVID vaccine price hike](#) (Previous PR: affordability of publicly funded medicines) Boston Globe 21/3/23

[MIT neuroscientist says 'routine' and 'discipline' are the keys to preserving memory and staving off dementia](#) (Previous PR: healthy lifestyle and memory decline) The Independent 23/3/23

Also in: Business Insider India, Malaysia Yahoo, US Today News, MSN Health CA, News Break, Daily Magazine, Today Headline, Quick Telecast, Scitechdaily, ScienceAlert, The News International, PracticeUpdate.com

[How parents can actually help their children avoid peanut allergies, new analysis reveals](#) The Independent 22/3/23

Also in: Dailynews Era, FocusTechnic, News Break

[Boris Johnson appears before UK parliamentary committee over COVID "Partygate" scandal](#) (Previous PR 'social murder' editorial) World Socialist 23/3/23

[How worried should we really be about the Pill and breast cancer?](#) Daily Mail 22/3/23

Also in: The India Times Post

JOURNALS

BMJ Medicine

Research: [Reproductive outcomes in women and men conceived by assisted reproductive technologies in Norway: prospective registry based study](#) (PR)

['Little evidence' that IVF conception heightens future pregnancy complications risk](#) The Irish Times 21/03/23

[People conceived by IVF are not at increased risk of obstetric or perinatal complications, study finds](#) News-Medical 21/03/23

Also in: Mirage News, Tech and Science Post, Pocket PC Medicine, Knowledia, Medical Xpress, Links Medicus, Vigour Times, IMPACT, Crossroads Today, KOAM TV, Index Journal, Arizona Daily Sun + local US news print outlets, kvetv, Drugs.com, Science Norway, Physician's Weekly

Further coverage for caffeine and weight loss, diabetes risk (PR)

[Drinking coffee could help keep you slim and ward off type 2 diabetes, study suggests](#) Business Telegraph 20/03/23

Also in: Fox News, The Amed Post, Web Today (US), Indy100, Network Today, Drug Genius, WCSI Online, Sambad English, Daily Coffee News, Fresh Cup Magazine, US Times Mirror, Prevention.com, Delicious Food, Remo News, Pedfire, Today Headline, Asume Tech, The Daily Check, Medically Prime, India Education Diary, Knowledia, The Limited Times, Easy Branches, TechLIVE, Money Talks, The Jerusalem Post, Hospital Healthcare, Kaiser Health News, News Archives USA, Asia News Today, Granthshala

BMJ Global Health

Analysis: [A global review of penalties for abortion related offences in 182 countries](#) (PR)

[Almost all countries around the globe criminalise abortion in some circumstances](#) ScienMag 21/03/23

[Almost all countries criminalise abortion in some circumstances. study finds](#) The Irish Times 21/03/23

[Some people who seek abortions can face prison time in more than 120 countries. analysis shows](#) NBC News 21/03/23

Also in: 24Talker, New York Daily News, Today Headline, AOL.com, Mirage News (AU), USToday.News, IFL Science, Head Topics, Medical Xpress, News-Medical, Health Medicine Network, Tech and Science Post, Flipboard, DoveMed, Ramaon Healthcare, Internewscast, No Peace Without Justice, VR Explorer, Irish + Scottish Legal News

[Scholars question study claiming kids raised by LGBT parents have 'similar' or better outcomes](#) The Christian Post 20/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Also in: MSN Lifestyle Canada, After Ellen, The London Free Press, TownNews, TimesLive, Free Malaysia Today, The Guild of Scientific Troubadours, Express India

Further coverage for quality of Tik Tok videos on Mpox (PR)

[TikTok Videos on Mpox Are of Low Quality](#) Dermatology Advisor 20/03/23

Also in: Optometry Advisor, Infectious Disease Advisor, Pocket PC Medicine, News-Medical

[‘Will be forced to react’: Putin warns UK on sending depleted uranium tank shells to Ukraine](#) The Guardian 21/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

[The UK's deliberate attempt to pour more fuel on the Ukraine conflict](#) China Global TV Network 23/03/23

Also in: Al Jazeera, TopologyPro, The Latest News, News Sniffer, AllUSA Newshub, MSN India, FirstPost, Head Topics, Geeky, MSN News Canada, Newsweek (Misattrib The BMJ), Latest Page News, Yerepouni Daily News, Nigeria News Network, MSN India, NewsBreak, Lipstick Alley

[U.S. pregnancy deaths dropped in 2022. after Covid spike](#) STAT 22/03/23

Also in: Tlmes News, CBS News, Neural Science, The Miami Times, Neural Science

[CDC Warns Against Rising Rates of Babesiosis in the Northeast](#) Life Sciences Intelligence 22/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Also in: NBC News

[Formula milk digital marketing is associated with poor parental feeding habits: Study](#) Fresh Society 22/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

[9 Signs You Might Have Toxic In-Laws \(& What To Do About It\)](#) Glam 22/03/23

[i morning briefing: How worried should we be about ultra-processed foods?](#) iNews 23/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Also in Flipboard, MSN IE

[What is drug-resistant Shigella and should we be worried about it?](#) The National (AE) 24/03/23

Also in: MSN Arabia

[Mobile messaging that saves lives - our mHealth work in India](#) BBC Media Action 24/03/23

Injury Prevention

Research: [Maternal outcomes in association with motor vehicle crashes during pregnancy: a nationwide population based retrospective study \(PR\)](#)

[Minor prangs can lead to severe birth complications](#) The Telegraph 21/03/23

[Pregnant women in road traffic accidents at higher risk of birth complications](#) Al Jazeera India 21/03/23

[Minor injuries in traffic accidents can raise risk of birth complications](#) UPI 21/03/23

Also in: The Sun + Irish + Scottish editions, Mahalsa UK, Yahoo News UK, US News & World Report, ThePrint (IN), Mirage News (AU), Taiwan Sun, WebIndia123, MSN AU + India + Malaysia, ANI News, Lokmat Times, US Times Post, IMPACT, KOAM News Now, KMZU-FM + US broadcast outlets, Tulsa World Online, St Louis-Post Despatch + extensive local/regional print outlets, MedIndia, The Daily News Online, Daily Prahbat, Mantras, User Walls, LatestLY, Apeksha Sandesh

Other: MSD Manuals, ScienMag, HealthDay, Drugs.com, Big World Tale, NewsBreak, News-shield, News-Medical, News Arounds, Big News Network, The Healthcast, Physician's Weekly, Pink Tractor, Weekly Sauce, Always First, Brigham & Women's Hospital, News-Topic, Head Topics, Crossroads Today, Medicine.net, DTnext, Medical Xpress, Maq News, Lady Clever, thepress.net, InForney

Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases

[Updated: AAV Treatment Recommendations](#) ScienMag 20/03/23

Also in: PhaMed, Medical Xpress, Daily News Era, Mirage News, RheumNow

[TMP/SMX May Lower Severe Infection Risk in ANCA-Associated Vasculitis](#) Monthly Prescribing Reference 21/03/23

Also in: Renal and Urology News, Infectious Disease Advisor

[Advil Can Trigger Inflammation — Try These 3 Natural Pain Cures Instead](#) First for Women 23/03/23

[Points to consider when using interferon assays](#) Medical Xpress 23/03/23

Also in: Daily News Era, Mirage News AU, ScienMag

[EULAR: Tocilizumab recommended for new. relapsing giant cell arteritis](#) Healio 23/03/23

Archives of Disease in Childhood

[Research Finds High Rates of Health Issues in Nauru's Detained Kids](#) Mirage News (AU) 21/03/23 (Flagged)

Also in: National Tribune (AU), Medical Xpress, NewsBlaze, TopologyPro, The Guardian (AU), MSN News Canada, Knowledia, India Education Diary

BMJ Case Reports

[What Is The Fastest Sneeze In The World?](#) Gay Weddings and Marriage Magazine 21/03/23 (Previous PR, misattributed to The BMJ)

[Surprising things you didn't know you can overdose on](#) MSN IE + AU 24/03/23 (Previous

PR)

BMJ Health & Care Informatics

[Pangaea's Novel AI Predicts Length-of-Stay & Risk of Mortality for Patients in the ICU](#)

AIThority 22/03/23

Also in: Yahoo Finance, StreetInsider, Startup360, Silicon UK, Associated Press, Benzinga, User Walls, TMCnet, Community Post, Spoke

BMJ Innovations

[Mobile messaging that saves lives - our mHealth work in India](#) BBC Media Action 24/03/23

BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health

Research: [Worldwide associations of fruit and vegetable supply with blood pressure from 1975 to 2015: an ecological study](#) (External PR)

[Fruit and veg supply issues associated with raised blood pressure, study shows](#) Daily News Era 20/03/23

Also in: FoodNews, Medical Xpress, Science Newsnet, AsiaFruit Magazine, Newswise

BMJ Open

[First Trimester Pregnancy Symptoms Explained](#) Popsugar 20/03/23

[10 Daily Habits that damage your eyesight and changes you can make to avoid them](#) Asian Sunday 21/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Research: [Examining the psychological and financial impact of travel restrictions on citizens and permanent residents stranded abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic: international cross-sectional study](#) (External PR)

[Research reveals substantial human cost of international COVID-19 travel and border restrictions](#) ScienMag 22/03/22

Also in: Medical Xpress, Mirage News (AU), The Epoch Times (US), India Education Diary

Research: [What do we know about the psychosocial issues associated with cancer during pregnancy? A scoping review and gap analysis](#) (External PR)

[Pregnant women diagnosed with cancer don't get the emotional support they need due to research gap, finds study](#) Medical Xpress 22/03/23

Also in: News-Medical

[Ping Lacson's reaction to "paid menstrual leave" stirs up contesting opinions among netizens](#) Philippines Entertainment Portal 25/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

[Gabriela files bill seeking 'menstrual leave'](#) ABS-CBN News 22/03/23

[Clinical Trial Participants, Investigators Point to Importance of Clinical Trial Results Reporting in Canadian Study](#) GenomeWeb 22/03/23

[In Conversation: How diet may help with endometriosis](#) Medical News Today 24/03/23

Research: [Weighting of risk factors for low birth weight: a linked routine data cohort study in Wales, UK](#) (External PR)

[New Study Identifies 5 Key Factors That Can Reduce the Risk of Low Birth Weight](#) SciTech Daily 25/03/23

Also in: Science Daily, Report Door, Industry Update, Focus Technica

BMJ Open Sport & Exercise Medicine

[Advil Can Trigger Inflammation — Try These 3 Natural Pain Cures Instead](#) First for Women 23/03/23

Also in: Yahoo News US

BMJ Open Respiratory Research

[Can RAS inhibitors reduce mortality among patients with COPD?](#) Medical Dialogues India 21/03/23

[No Longitudinal Link Found Between Smoking and New-Onset/Worsening Asthma](#) Medical Bag (AU) 23/03/23

[Global Sleep Apnea Diagnostic Market Size To Grow USD 7.2 Billion By 2030 | CAGR Of 6.9%](#) MENA FN 23/03/23

Also in: User Walls, Globe Newswire

BMJ Quality & Safety

[WHAT IS THE IDEAL PATIENT DISCHARGE EXPERIENCE?](#) Healthcare Leadership Blog 19/03/23

Research: [What works in medication reconciliation: an on-treatment and site analysis of the MARQUIS2 study](#) (External PR)

[Study determines most effective ways for hospitals to reduce medication errors](#) Medical Xpress 22/03/23

Also in: Becker's Hospital Review, Mirage News, ScienMag, Healio, TCMD

BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health

[658 women completed medical abortion, more than half already had children](#) The World News 22/03/23

Also in: Malta Today, Easy Branches

British Journal of Sports Medicine

[Walk more, eat well: As a health writer, these studies make me sad](#) Yerepouni News 20/03/23 (Previous PR)

Also in: India Education Diary, Business Mirror Online, The World News, CauseAction Clarion, India Education Diary, InForney, Health.com, IMPACT, Health.com, The Cutoff News, MoneyLife, Yahoo Lifestyle

[Recommended-exercises-for-plantar-fasciitis](#) The World News 20/03/23

Also in: MENA FN

[Can You Achieve a Toned Body Without Exercise and Dieting?](#) World Today News 20/03/23

[The lazy guide to getting fit](#) Mail Plus 20/03/23 (Previous PR; misattrib The BMJ)

Also in: News Colony, MSN NZ + UK, Mail Online + Irish edition, Health Thoroughfare, Glam

[New Study Finds Exercise To Be The Best Treatment For Depression](#) NewsDeal 21/03/23
Also in: TheHealthSite, Yahoo News UK, HTV10, Rheumatology Advisor, Business Insider India + NL, INSIDER, Healthy Aging.net, NewsBreak, RunnersWeb, Fatherly, ScienceAlert, TekDeeps

[Science Journals Revise Guidelines After Study Finds Incomplete Reporting](#) Mirage News 22/03/23 (Quote from Jon Drezner)

Also in: Medical Xpress, ScienMag, Lab Manager Magazine

Research: [Association between physical activity and the time course of cancer recurrence in stage III colon cancer](#) (External PR)

[Cancer recurrence can be avoided with physical activity: Study](#) Hindustan Times 22/03/23

Also in: ThePrint, Illinois Intelligencer + widespread local/regional US outlets, Mantras, Toronto Telegraph, Lokmat Times, Knowledia, WashingtonDC News, Canada News.net, Canada Standard, Always First, BioEngineer, Mirage News, Daily Prahbat, Big News Network, ANI News, Prothom Alo English, ScienMag, The ASCO Post, Dynamite News, eCancer, Technology Networks, ET Healthworld, Daily News Era, ThePrint (IN), Fresh Society, Montreal News, Mantras, Devdiscourse, LatestLY, Apeksha Sandesh, Trial Site News

[Lorraine + widespread regional TV](#) 23/03/23 (**Previous PR**; refers to study about balancing on 1 leg)

[Jill Biden calls on men to step up for women's rights—even though definition of 'woman' continues to elude the Biden administration](#) Conservative Review 23/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Also in: TheBlaze, USSA News Online, CauseAction Clarion

[Pentagon doctors say children as young as SEVEN should be able to get puberty blockers](#) Express Digest 23/03/23

Also in: Finno Expert, Mogaz News, DUK News, Mail Online, Sound Health and Lasting Wealth, Internewscast

[Why are these scientists teaching seniors how to fall? I took the plunge to find out](#) Toronto Star 24/03/23

[Smartwatches could interfere with pacemakers](#) The Week India 26/03/23

Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin

[Watchdog Says Studies Prove Antidepressants Cause Withdrawal Symptoms](#) In the Headline Money 21/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Also in: TechBuzzing Asia, MarketersMedia + financial news outlets, Breast Cancer News, Classic FM, User Walls, Business Observer, Tech World Insiders, Future Science Today, Think Business Today, Asia Viral News, Tech Asialogue, TrendRadars

Emergency Medicine Journal

[Surprising things you didn't know you can overdose on](#) MSN IE + AU 24/03/23

Also in: MSN Health and Fitness

Gut

[Post COVID-19 irritable bowel syndrome](#) (External PR)

[COVID-19 patients more likely to develop gastrointestinal disorders](#) News-Medical 20/03/23

Also in: Punjab News Express, Medical Xpress, Science Newsnet, Study Finds, BreathingLabs, The Weekly Voice, DailyHunt (IN), Daily 24x7 News, Rashtra Baan, Newsroom Odisha, Times Now, Newstrack Live, MENA FN, Lokmat Times, India Online Mart, ProKerala, Daiji World, Social News XYZ, Can-India News, Business Insider India, The Hawk India, Israel National News, Medical Dialogues India, MSN Health CA,

[What's In Your Fridge? Here's What Should Be If You Want To Lose Weight](#) Woman's World 21/03/23

Research: [Gestational diabetes is driven by microbiota-induced inflammation months before diagnosis](#) (External PR)

[Gut microbes can help diagnose gestational diabetes in 1st trimester - study](#) The Jerusalem Post 22/03/23

Also in: Science Newsnet, Newswise, TPS (Israel)

[Colorectal cancer: different treatment options](#) Archy Worldys 24/03/23

Heart

Further coverage for heart benefits of Mediterranean diet in women (PR)

[Study: Mediterranean diet cuts women's risk of heart disease](#) McKnight's Long Term Care News 20/03/23

Also in: Fitness Health News, Yahoo Canada, Everyday Health, IBT Singapore, News Leaflets, News Concerns, The World News, News-Medical, Malay Mail, Neural Science, MSN Health & Fitness, Today (NBC), Clinician Reviews, Egypt Independent, Kuwait Times, Breaking.Latest, WNBC-TV + widespread local/regional US broadcast outlets, MSN Singapore

Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer

[Onconova Therapeutics and Pangea Biomed Enter into Research Collaboration to Identify Biomarkers of Response to Rigosertib](#) BioSpace 23/03/23

Also in: Pharmabiz, Barrons, Spoke, Benzinga, Globe Newswire

Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

[Your Personal Best: Exercise cognition](#) NewsBreak 20/03/23 (Previous PR)

[10 WAYS NATURE CONTRIBUTES TO OUR WELL-BEING](#) Archyde 26/03/23

Journal of Medical Ethics

[Going on offense](#) World Magazine Online (NG) 23/03/23

[Scooped by 'Freedom Lovers': Anti-Vax Group Cites an HMS Paper](#) The Harvard Crimson 23/03/23 (cites right wing misuse of JME research on vaccination of students in US)

[Prescription drug too expensive? Is it safe to source it online?](#) Your Life Choices 24/03/23

[WATCH: Moderna CEO squirms as Rand Paul grills him on COVID jab risks](#) LifeSite 24/03/23

Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery & Psychiatry

[Physical Activity Levels in Adulthood Improve Cognition Later in Life](#) Medical Bag (AU)

22/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Also in: Neurology Advisor, Dermatology Advisor

[EPILEPSY AFTER AN AUTOIMMUNE ENCEPHALITIS](#) Neurology Breaking.Latest 22/03/23

[Postpartum relapse Multiple Sclerosis risk increased in first few months](#) Medical Dialogues India 23/03/23

[Functional neurological disorder occurs after COVID infection, vaccines](#) Vaaju 25/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Also in: Newspost US Zero, MedPage Today, Knowledia, Medically Prime, WhatsNew2Day, TechLive

[Coronavirus Morning News Brief – March 26: Long Covid Functional Manifestations Differ from Post-Vaccine Effects. Fewer Vaccinated People Died from Covid](#) Frequent Business Traveler 26/03/23

Occupational & Environmental Medicine

[9 ways to beat workplace burnout](#) IMPACT 20/03/23

Also in: The Citizens' Voice + US Broadcast, MSN Health & Fitness

[Frequent Visits to Green Spaces May Reduce Use of Specific Medications](#) Clinical Pain Advisor 23/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

Open Heart

[The myth of low-fat foods. How did fat become the villain of the modern diet?](#) The Teller Report 20/03/23 (**Previous PR**)

[Weather Eye](#) The Times 25/03/23 (health impact of change to BST)

Thorax

[Avalyn Pharma Publishes Phase 1b ATLAS Results Demonstrating Stabilization of Lung Function at 24 and 48 Weeks with AP01 and Favorable Safety Profile](#) BioSpace 24/03/23

Also in: StreetInsider, Canadian Insider, Infotech News, The American Business Journal, IT Business + various financial outlets, Benzinga, Life Care News (IN), Associated Press

INFLUENCE

Top Altmetric articles 20- 27 March: physical activity to improve depression (**BJSM**), UK government actions during pandemic (**The BMJ Opinion**):

Article in **British Journal of Sports Medicine**, February 2023

[Effectiveness of physical activity interventions for improving depression, anxiety and distress: an overview of systematic reviews](#)

Mentioned **1,141** times in the past week

Article in **British Medical Journal**, March 2023

[The UK government's attempt to frighten people into covid protective behaviours was at odds with its scientific advice](#)

Mentioned **857** times in the past week

Written question by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts (Conservative): To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the accuracy of the Professional and Linguistics Assessment Board examination (PLAB) as a test of competence for International Medical Graduates, given the conclusion of the **British Medical Journal (BMJ)** published on 17 April 2014 that the pass mark of PLAB would need to be increased by 30 per cent to reach equivalence with UK graduates.

Answered by Lord Markham The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care 21 March 2023: No specific assessment has been made. The General Medical Council (GMC) is the independent regulator of all medical doctors practising in the United Kingdom. It sets and enforces the standards to which all doctors must adhere. The GMC is responsible for operational matters, including those relating to Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board tests, which it revised in 2016 following a review.