

A decade of news



2010

FEBRUARY

Robert Francis QC's independent inquiry into the care provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust finds that appalling failures in patient safety and care were caused by inadequate training of staff, staff cutbacks, and an overemphasis on government targets. A public inquiry followed in 2013.



JULY

The white paper on Andrew Lansley's proposed reforms to the NHS is published. Described as the "most radical pro-market shake up in its history," the reorganisation will hand GPs the power to commission most services.

2011

JULY

BMA members at its annual representative meeting vote unanimously in favour of balloting for industrial action over proposed changes to the NHS pension scheme. The union warns that the changes will increase how much doctors need to pay



into their pensions, abolish final salary pensions, and increase doctors' normal pension age in line with state retirement age.

SEPTEMBER

After more than 1000 amendments the Health and Social Care Bill is passed

by the House of Commons after its third reading. Many individuals, groups, and organisations still have grave concerns about the bill.

DECEMBER

Government announces plans for a new NHS pension scheme for England and Wales to be introduced in 2015.

2012

MARCH

The Health and Social Care Act becomes law.

SEPTEMBER

Jeremy Hunt is appointed health secretary for England.



2013

OCTOBER

NHS Employers and the BMA start discussions on a new contract for consultants and for junior doctors.

2014



MARCH

The first cases of Ebola virus disease in West Africa are declared in Guinea, although it is thought that the outbreak began in December 2013 in remote forested regions of the country.

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2016

2017

2018

MARCH

Thousands of junior doctors take part in a third round of industrial action, this time for 48 hours. A fourth industrial action follows in April, with more than 140 picket lines across England.



MAY

The UK becomes the second country in the world after Australia to introduce standardised packaging for tobacco products.

APRIL

A tapered annual allowance is introduced in NHS pensions, imposing new limits on how much higher earners can contribute to their pensions without incurring tax charges.

JUNE

- WHO declares an end of Ebola virus disease in Liberia and Guinea, after an end to the disease in Sierra Leone in March.

- UK votes to leave the European Union.



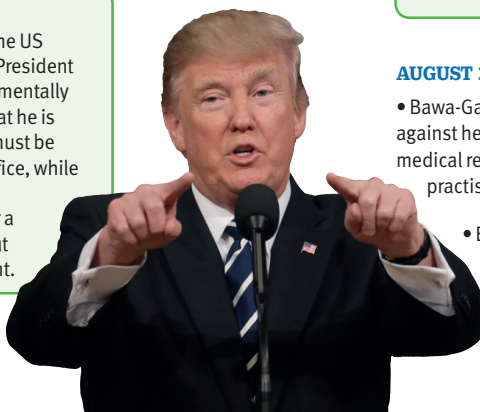
OCTOBER

A new contract for junior doctors in England is introduced.

2017

FEBRUARY

Psychiatrists in the US debate whether President Donald Trump is mentally ill. Some warn that he is dangerous and must be removed from office, while others argue it is unethical to offer a diagnosis without seeing the patient.



JUNE

Bawa-Garba is suspended for 12 months by the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, which says that "erasure would be disproportionate."

2018

JANUARY

- The High Court rules that Bawa-Garba must be struck off the medical register to maintain the public's confidence in the profession.

- England's Department of Health is rebranded the Department of Health and Social Care.



JULY

Matt Hancock is appointed England's secretary of state for health and social care.

AUGUST 2018

- Bawa-Garba wins appeal against her erasure from the medical register and can practise again.
- Ebola virus disease reappears in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a week after another outbreak in the west of the country was declared over. It is the fifth outbreak in the country in a decade. The response is hampered by violence and the remoteness of the areas affected.

OCTOBER

Negotiations between the BMA and the government on the consultant and junior doctor contracts come to a standstill.

2015

APRIL

A new NHS pension scheme is introduced that calculates benefits on the basis of career average earnings.

JUNE

The Conservative Party commits to increasing numbers of GPs by 5000 by 2020. However, by 2018



the number of full time equivalent GPs in England has fallen.

JULY

Speaking in the House of Commons, Hunt claims that "around 6000 people lose their lives every year because we do not have a proper seven day service in hospitals." The health department says the source was a paper that would soon be published in *The BMJ*.

AUGUST

Hunt threatens to impose the new contract for junior doctors if an agreement cannot be reached between the government and the BMA by early September.

SEPTEMBER

• Consultant contract negotiations resume between the BMA and NHS Employers.

• *The BMJ* publishes an analysis of seven day

services by national medical director Bruce Keogh and colleagues entitled, "Increased mortality associated with weekend hospital admission: a case for expanded seven day services?" The article did not refer to 6000 excess deaths, as quoted by Hunt in July.

NOVEMBER

• Hadiza Bawa-Garba is found guilty of gross negligence manslaughter and given a two year suspended sentence over the death from sepsis of 6 year old Jack Adcock in February 2011.



• 98% of the 37 155 junior doctors balloted by the BMA vote to take strike action to protest against changes to their contract.



DECEMBER

The Zika virus, a little known relative of dengue, emerges as a new threat in Brazil, as cases of microcephaly soar from roughly 300 cases in the first nine months of 2015 to more than 2400 in the last three months of the year.

JANUARY

61% of junior doctors in England take part in industrial action over changes to their contract. For 24 hours they provide emergency care only.

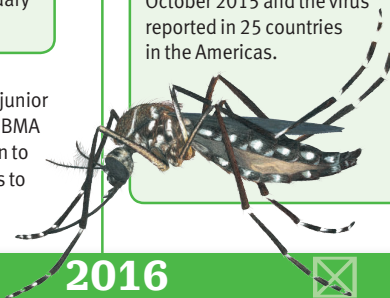


FEBRUARY

• WHO declares Zika a public health emergency, with 4000 babies in Brazil born with microcephaly since October 2015 and the virus reported in 25 countries in the Americas.

• Junior doctors take part in a second day of industrial action.

• The government announces it will impose the new contract on junior doctors from August.



2015

2019

2019

FEBRUARY

Health Education England publishes a report by its NHS Staff and Learner Mental Wellbeing Commission calling for doctors to have access to good occupational health, psychological support, and rest facilities.

MARCH

NHS England outlines plans to repeal parts of the Health and Social Care Act on competition and procurement, to promote integration and cooperation in the NHS.

MAY

The government commits £10m to doctors' rest facilities in England.



JUNE

The BMA endorses further changes to the 2016 junior doctor contract and ends its dispute with the government.

SEPTEMBER

Vaccination against HPV starts in boys in the UK aged 12 to 13, 11 years after it was introduced for girls.



OCTOBER

• Abortion in Northern Ireland is decriminalised.

• Daphne Romney QC's independent review of

sexism at the BMA is published. One of the complainants calls for officers responsible for the behaviour to consider leaving their posts to allow a culture change at the association.



NOVEMBER 2019

• The GMC publishes *Caring for Doctors, Caring for Patients*, which calls on employers to adopt minimum standards of food and rest facilities for doctors.

• More than 1350 women win a class action in Australia against Johnson & Johnson over harm from its transvaginal mesh and tape devices. It followed a case in October when the company agreed to pay nearly \$117m to settle claims brought by 41 US states that it deceptively marketed and

advertised the products. The UK's independent review into vaginal mesh is set to report in March 2020.

DECEMBER

• Vaccine shortages lead WHO to call for all countries that are vaccinating boys against HPV to suspend their programmes until all girls who need the vaccine can receive it.

• Figures are released showing that more than 142 000 people around the world died from measles in 2018, most of them aged under 5 years. This is more than the 124 000 deaths in 2017, but fewer than the 535 600 seen in 2000. Vaccine hesitancy is among the factors blamed.

Abi Rimmer, Zosia Kmiotowicz, *The BMJ*

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NOVEMBER

• Cannabis based medicinal products become available on the NHS after a change in the law.

• The private company Babylon launches the GP at Hand digital service in Hammersmith, west London, offering NHS consultations through a smartphone app and in surgeries.