



Module 3

November 2022

Module 3 Provisional Scope

This module will consider the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on healthcare systems in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This will include consideration of the healthcare consequences of how the governments and the public responded to the pandemic. It will examine the capacity of healthcare systems to respond to a pandemic and how this evolved during the Covid-19 pandemic. It will consider the primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare sectors and services and people's experience of healthcare during the pandemic, including through illustrative accounts. It will also examine healthcare-related inequalities (such as in relation to death rates, PPE and oximeters), with further detailed consideration in a separate designated module.

In particular, this module will examine:

1. The impact of Covid-19 on people's experience of healthcare.
2. Core decision-making and leadership within healthcare systems during the pandemic.
3. Staffing levels and critical care capacity, the establishment and use of Nightingale hospitals and the use of private hospitals.
4. 111, 999 and ambulance services, GP surgeries and hospitals and cross-sectional co-operation between services.
5. Healthcare provision and treatment for patients with Covid-19, healthcare systems' response to clinical trials and research during the pandemic. The allocation of staff and resources. The impact on those requiring care for reasons other than Covid-19. Quality of treatment for Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients, delays in treatment, waiting lists and people not seeking

or receiving treatment. Palliative care. The discharge of patients from hospital.

6. Decision-making about the nature of healthcare to be provided for patients with Covid-19, its escalation and the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including the use of do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructions (DNACPRs).
7. The impact of the pandemic on doctors, nurses and other healthcare staff, including on those in training and specific groups of healthcare workers (for example by reference to ethnic background). Availability of healthcare staff. The NHS surcharge for non-UK healthcare staff and the decision to remove the surcharge.
8. Preventing the spread of Covid-19 within healthcare settings, including infection control, the adequacy of PPE and rules about visiting those in hospital.
9. Communication with patients with Covid-19 and their loved ones about patients' condition and treatment, including discussions about DNACPRs.
10. Deaths caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, in terms of the numbers, classification and recording of deaths, including the impact on specific groups of healthcare workers, for example by reference to ethnic background and geographical location.
11. Shielding and the impact on the clinically vulnerable (including those referred to as "clinically extremely vulnerable").
12. Characterisation and identification of Post-Covid Condition (including the condition referred to as long Covid) and its diagnosis and treatment.



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