

# A practical guide for searching NHS Choices



Quality evidence-based information designed and supported by the NHS for members of the public. Developed and maintained by The Department of Health.

**Exploring NHS Choices**

Explore the front page and the five drop down menus on main banner. Think about specific information that might be of interest to you.

If you can't find what you're after, try the search box at the top right of the page – it covers everything on the wider NHS Choices site, including information on conditions and treatments, and advice to help you live a healthier lifestyle or boost your mental wellbeing.

**Topics along top menu**

Includes interactive tools and apps, video clips, self-booking for Outpatients, links to support groups. Translate – translates the website into different languages

**Find local services – postcode search**

Search for local GP, urgent care, hospital or dentist plus many other services

**Latest articles**

Looks at topical subjects giving further information in a range of formats

**Main banner**

See next page for details

**Symptom searcher**

A-Z search for conditions – includes interactive body part map

**Links to organ and blood registrations**

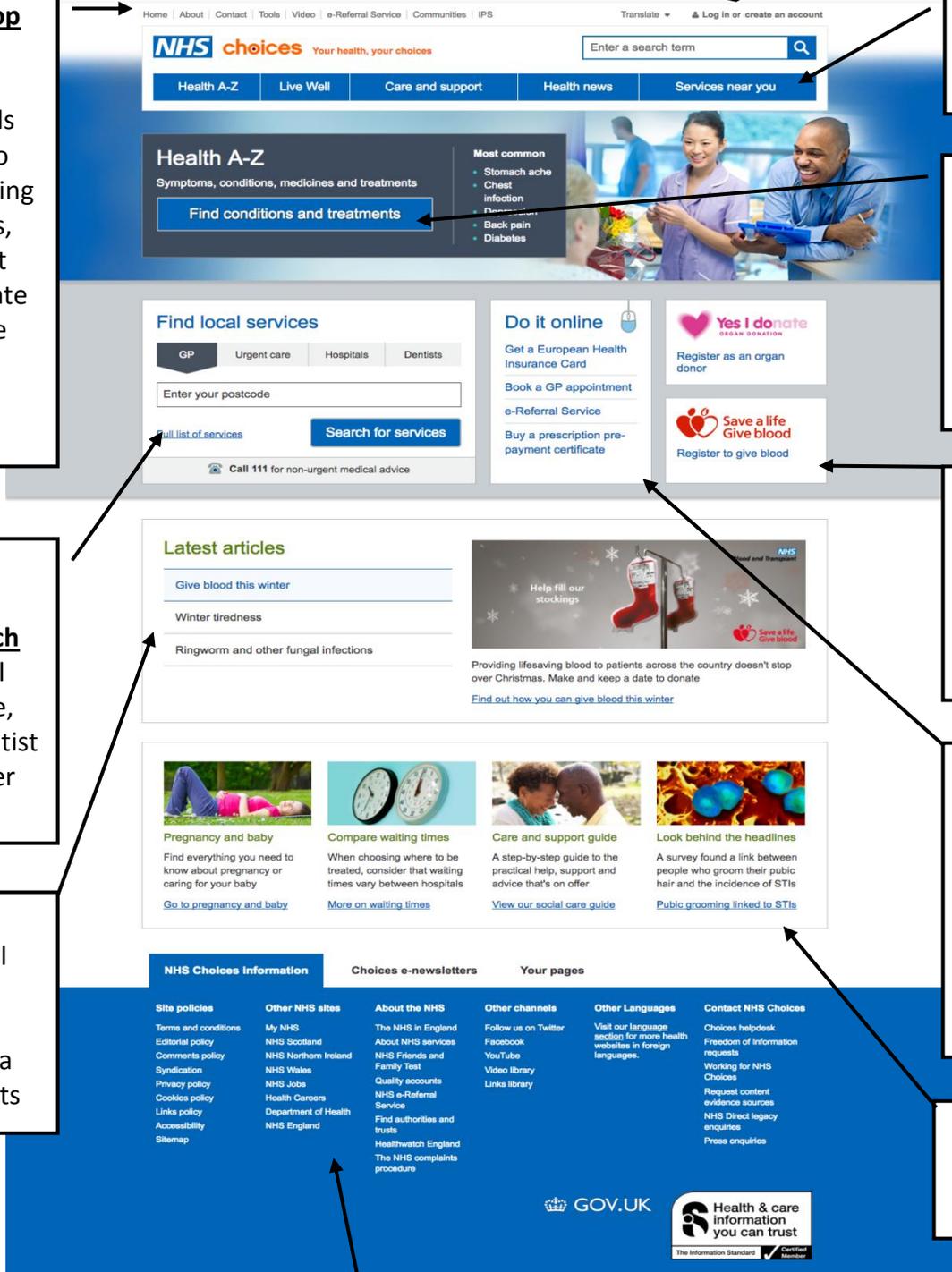
Specific registrations for donation

**Online applications and bookings**

Online forms to fill for specific services. GP booking (will need to register)

**Current topics**

Four visual links to news items



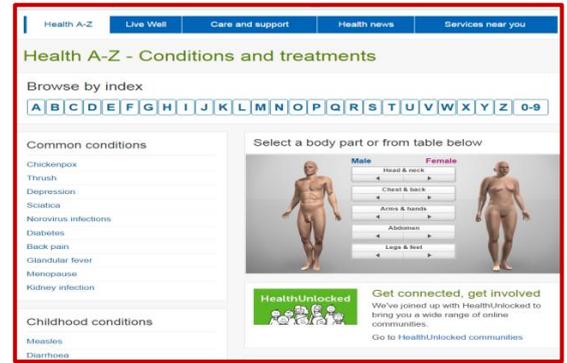
**Links to information about NHS in general and NHS Choices**

Links to policy information, NHS sites, other language sites, social media and contact details

Searching the five drop down menus on main banner

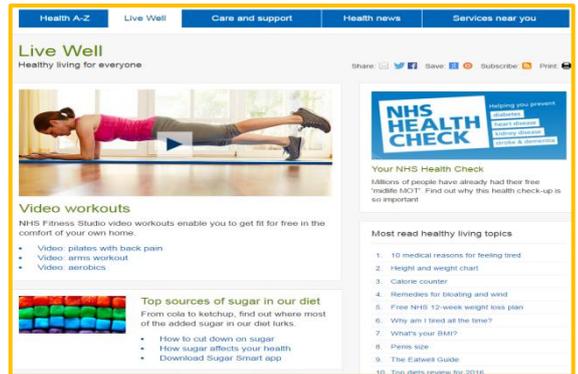
**Health A-Z**

Contains information on conditions, treatment options, vaccinations and answers to common health questions. Information is divided into sections. You can search in different ways.



**Live Well**

A wealth of information that includes Couch to 5K, Alcohol limits, NHS 12-week weight loss plan, Eatwell Guide. Features include videos, tips, guidance and on-line support.



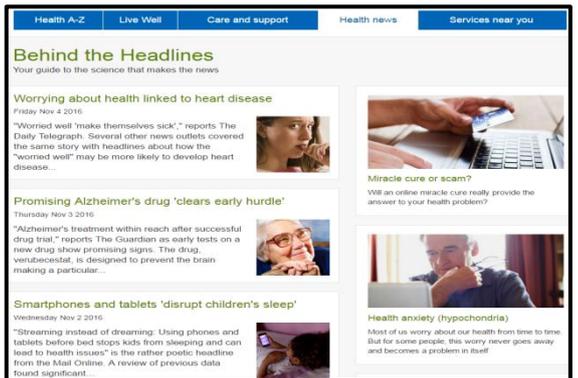
**Care and support**

A guide to social care; sections include "Your situation", "Care services and advice", "Money and your rights" and a section "For carers".



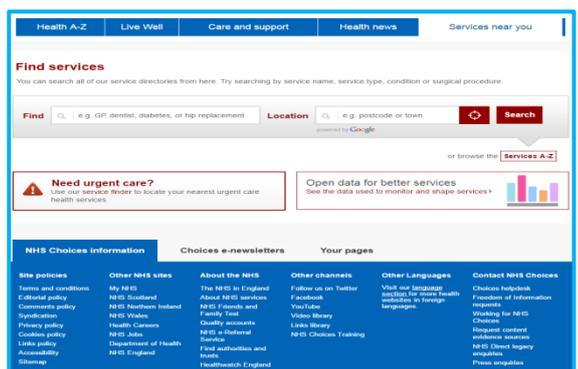
**Health News**

The research behind the headline news. Studies and reports explained in plain language. Forums available to discuss health evidence and techniques in searching.



**Services near you**

What the NHS offers e.g. hip replacement, the services explained and choosing the right one for you. You are able to compare services such as consultants and GPs.



## Frequently Ask Questions

- **How do I search for information on a condition e.g.: hair loss?**

On the NHS Choices home page you can hover over the option for "**Health A-Z**". From there, choose "All A-Z Topics" which will direct you to a glossary where you search for any condition, based on the first few letters.

- **How do I find out about healthy living and how I can get help to exercise?**

On the NHS Choices home page you can hover over the option for "**Live Well**". From there, choose "All Live Well Topics" which will direct you to a glossary where you can search for any Live Well article, based on the first few letters.

- **Are there interactive tools and apps to help me look after my own health?**

Yes. At the top of the NHS Choices home page is an option for "**Tools**", clicking this will direct you to a tools and apps library.

- **How do I find information about social care services and benefits?**

On the NHS Choices home page click on "**Care and support**". This will take you to the Care and support home page where you can then navigate to separate topics on social care services and benefits.

- **How do I find a local GP service? What other local services can I find?**

On the NHS Choices home page hover over the option for "**Services near you**". From there you can choose GP from the drop down list. A library of services can be accessed by choosing "all directories" from the drop down list instead of specifically "GP".

- **How do I compare hospital and surgeon performance to see which I should try to go to?**

Perform a search for either hospitals or consultant by choosing the relevant option from the drop down list under "**Services near you**". When you have performed the search, performance information will be automatically displayed in easily comparable columns.

- **How do I create an NHS Choices account and what are the benefits of having an account?**

You can create an account with NHS Choices by clicking on "**create an account**" on any page on NHS Choices. The benefits of having an account are that you can save and store information, receive e-mails on your chosen topics and health goals, as well as not being required to activate any comments that you leave.

- **How do I book an appointment?**

You can find information on how to book an appointment by choosing "**e-referral service**" from the top of any page on NHS Choices. This service is for outpatients appointments to hospitals or clinics. You will need a reference number from an appointment letter and to have set up online booking with your GP beforehand.