

# One Pandemic with Chips on the Side



Georgie Adams, NNNG Communications Officer

It is remarkable to see the impact digital technologies have played on social change in the UK over recent years. The first smartphones were only released around 2007, and slightly more than 10 years later, 80 per cent of the country's population are now using them daily.

Ten years ago, laptops and desktop personal computers (PCs) were the only devices with computing, or network, capabilities in-use, in health and care settings. The emerging 'Internet of Things' means it will soon be possible to fit devices and objects, with low-cost and low-power components, that enable healthcare professionals to capture all kinds of data and allow for remote interrogation and information transmission. As *The Economist's* cover predicted in September 2019, these developments mean we can have "chips with everything".

During the Covid-19 pandemic, billions of people were finding ways to connect with each other remotely while living under social distancing and lockdown rules. For both personal and work communication, people transformed their habits to integrate digital technology capabilities into their lives. For others, this period compounded the already existing inequality in digital access, leaving them even further behind.

The move towards population-based care marks the beginning of a journey, for the health and care system, and a departure from a paternalistic model of providing care solely in clinical settings. The future will see the intervention point moving towards the preventive, and empowering individuals, and communities, to better look after their own wellbeing.

*The King's Fund: Shaping the Future of Digital Technology in Health and Social Care*, April 2021 [Maguire, Honeyman, Fenney, Jabbal] report demonstrates the first wave of technology and factors which will determine the future. With leadership, foresight and the resources to make it happen, the health and social care sector can reap the benefits from a rapid spread and uptake of digital technology.

To read more please visit: [www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/future-digital-technology-health-social-care](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/future-digital-technology-health-social-care)

## Digital technology: the great leap forward

Implementing new technology will be a challenge while still maintaining existing services. In the latest episode of the NGPODCAST, The Role of Nutrition in the Recovery from Post COVID-19 implementing a new electronic, patient record system and its impact on nutritional care. We also spoke about the importance of preparation, communication and what to expect on day one of the new system are all covered, plus the impact on the nutritional Nurse Specialist and the entire nutrition support MDT.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA0sXKTvVaY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gA0sXKTvVaY)

## Don't abandon masks or social distancing just yet

A coalition of concerned healthcare professionals and experts is urging the public to continue wearing masks and practising social distancing – even though the government has relaxed its official COVID-19 restrictions. They argue that giving up on masks and social distancing now – when infections and intensive care admissions are still high – would put the nation's return to normal life in jeopardy. The NNNG is proud to support and align itself with the movement:

[www.bapen.org.uk/news-and-media/news/900-dont-abandon-masks-and-social-distancing-yet-health-professionals-urge-the-public](http://www.bapen.org.uk/news-and-media/news/900-dont-abandon-masks-and-social-distancing-yet-health-professionals-urge-the-public)

## NNNG launches new logo and a fresh and modern website



Along with our new logo and branding, we also have a fresh new website! The new website is designed to be easier to use and navigate. And be better visually – these components together will hopefully forge a community you'll want to engage with. To help build that community we also have a brand-new forum. The previous forum was too difficult to use or navigate, and so we wanted to make sure that wouldn't be an issue this time around. We think you'll agree that the new forum (for members only) not only looks much nicer, but also has some much-needed extra features like 'reply-by-email' to make it simpler and more enjoyable to use, and take part in conversations.

## Membership

Membership is open to nursing roles, however all health professionals can join and follow us on social media. Please encourage your nursing colleagues and social care staff to join us. The NNNG welcomes joint working with allied professionals and disciplines.

**Web:** [www.nnng.org.uk/](http://www.nnng.org.uk/) **Email:** [info@nnng.org.uk](mailto:info@nnng.org.uk)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/NNNGUK](https://twitter.com/NNNGUK) **LinkedIn:** #NNNG

[www.linkedin.com/company/national-nurses-nutrition-group](http://www.linkedin.com/company/national-nurses-nutrition-group)

## And finally

BAPEN - InTouch Issue 102 now available for all members:

[www.bapen.org.uk/my-bapen/members-resources/latest-in-touch](http://www.bapen.org.uk/my-bapen/members-resources/latest-in-touch)



**SAVE THE DATES!**

## Virtual Conference 2021

Nursing and Nutritional Care – complex, diverse, essential

Monday 20th – Friday 24th September, 7 – 8pm

Our annual conference in September will be a virtual event running over several evenings during the week 20–24 September. It will be free to all NNNG members, with a small fee for non-members. We are busy finalising details for our virtual Nutrition Village, allowing members and attendees to visit a variety of industry stands and demonstrations. We plan to bring you interesting, thought-provoking, challenging and reflective speakers straight to your homes and PCs.

To book your place, visit: [www.NNNGConference.co.uk](http://www.NNNGConference.co.uk) or call: +44(0)20 75016748

Join us: [www.nnng.org.uk](http://www.nnng.org.uk)

Email us: [nationalnursesnutritiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:nationalnursesnutritiongroup@gmail.com) Follow us: @NNNGUK