

The National Health Service is turning 70 on 5 July 2018. It's the perfect opportunity to celebrate the achievements of one of the nation's most loved institutions, to appreciate the vital role the service plays in our lives, and to recognise and thank the extraordinary NHS staff – the everyday heroes – who are there to guide, support and care for us, day in, day out.

How the NHS has changed over 70 years:



- The NHS treats more than 1.4 million patients – every 24 hours
- Patients now live on average at least 12 years longer than they did in 1948 (1948: average life expectancy 68 yrs, 2018: 80yrs)
- In 1948 there were 16,864 GPs, in 2018 there are 41,817 GPs
- In 1948, the NHS budget was £437 million. In 2017/18, around £110 billion will be spent on the day to day running of the NHS in England.
- In 1958, a polio and diphtheria vaccinations programme was launched. Previously, in epidemic years, diphtheria could cause up to 5000 deaths. A dramatic reduction in both diseases followed.
- In 1961, the Pill was made available to married women, then to all women. By 1969, more than 1 million were using it...now, over 7.38 million women use the Pill for contraception.
- In 1948, there were 34 deaths per 1000 births. In 2018, the infant mortality rate has dropped to 3.8 per 1000 births.
- In 1962, the first hip replacement was carried out. We now perform approximately 77,000 hip operations a year in the UK.
- In 1978, the world's first test tube baby was born. In 2016, there were over 68,000 IVF treatment cycles, resulting in 20,028 births. Since 1978, five million babies have been born through assisted reproduction worldwide.
- In 1988, the breast and cervical screening programme was introduced for women. In the last 20 years it has detected just under a quarter of a million cancers and reported nearly 5 million cervical abnormalities.

For more information please go to: www.nhs70.nhs.uk or #NHS70

Ways in which you can help the NHS:

- Give blood and join the organ donor register
- Join the NHS team
- Pledge to use NHS services wisely
- Take care of yourself
- Get involved in research projects
- Become a volunteer and help others
- Supporting NHS charities

