

# Recommended Reading



## Irish College of GPs Library

Welcome to the March issue of Recommended Reading.

Every month, the library scan resources of interest to General Practice and recommends reports and research articles from reputable sources. Previously published issues are available on our website <https://www.irishcollegeofgps.ie/Home/Clinical-Hub/Publications-and-Journals/Evidence-Based-Resources>. We welcome any feedback or comments which can be emailed directly to [library@icgp.ie](mailto:library@icgp.ie).

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### College News & Publications



#### Forum March 2026

Enemy at the Gates: Lessons from the flu season

#### GP Works with Dr Aoife Moloney and Dr Sinead Cronin (10 Feb 2026)

In the final episode of GP Works, the progress of the College's Leadership Academy is explored through the insights of two GP participants, Dr Aoife Moloney and Dr Sinead Cronin.

#### The GP Podcast (March 2026)

The Irish College of GPs launched The GP Podcast in March hosted by Dr John Maher. This is a clinical education podcast featuring conversations with GP's on key educational topics. The GP podcast will add topics on a weekly basis.

### Recent contributions to medical literature by Irish College of GP's affiliated researchers:

1. **Out-of-hours general practice care in Ireland: Consultations and emergency department referrals from 2013 to 2022.** *BJGP Open*. 2026 Mar 3:BJGPO.2025.0204. doi: 10.3399/BJGPO.2025.0204. Epub ahead of print.  
College Affiliation: Dr Mike O'Callaghan & Dr Fintan Stanley (PhD).

[🔗 Read Article](#)

2. **The Management of Acne in General Practice using Isotretinoin: A Scoping Review Protocol** [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]. *HRB Open Res* 2026, 9:21.

College Affiliation: Dr Diarmuid Quinlan.

[🔗 Read Article](#)

3. **Primary health care policy advocacy in Europe: A cross-sectional study of family medicine associations.** *Eur J Gen Pract.* 2026 Dec;32(1):2625572. doi:

10.1080/13814788.2026.2625572. Epub 2026 Feb 24.

College Affiliation: Dr Andree Rochfort.

[🔗 Read Article](#)

4. **Co-designing a structured referral template to enhance dementia diagnosis: a modified e-Delphi study.** *Age Ageing.* 2026 Feb 1;55(2):afag008. doi: 10.1093/ageing/afag008.

College Affiliation: Dr Lucinda Dockeray & Dr Diarmuid Quinlan.

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5. **Reflections on Identity and Role Navigation of Continuous Medical Education Tutors in General Practice.** *Clin Teach.* 2026 Apr;23(2):e70357. doi: 10.1111/tct.70357.

College Affiliation: Ivana Keenan, Dr Aileen Barrett (PhD), Dr Illona Duffy, Dr Laoise Byrne, Dr Claire McNicholas, Gillian Doran, Dr Stephanie Dowling.

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6. **Developing A Complex Intervention to Integrate Community Paramedics in GP Out-of-Hours Care in Ireland: A Qualitative Study.** *HRB Open Res.* 2026 Jan 9;9:6. doi:

10.12688/hrbopenres.14246.1.

College Affiliation: Dr Diarmuid Quinlan.

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## GPs In the News: What's making headlines?

[🔗 RTE, 18 Feb 2026](#)

[How local GPs are the hidden engine of rural Ireland](#)

[🔗 Medical Independent, 22 Feb 2026](#)

[A Donegal doctor's life in general practice](#)

[🔗 Irish Examiner, 24 Feb 2026](#)

['Radical' plan needed to tackle GP shortage crisis](#)

[🔗 Irish Examiner, 6 March 2026](#)

['I would be lost without her': Six female healthcare trailblazers pay tributes to their mentors](#)

[🔗 Irish Examiner, 9 March 2026](#)

[Free GP care for all sounds noble, but it could ruin what makes Irish healthcare great](#)

[🔗 Irish Medical Times, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026](#)

[An Post launch Irish Women Medics Stamps](#)

## 🏥 Latest from the Department of Health

Press Release, 5 Feb 2026

Minister announces Government approval to commence procurement for a National Electronic Health Record



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

Press Release, 20 Feb 2026

Minister for Mental Health, Mary Butler launches the National Digital Mental Health Strategy

Press Release, 24 Feb 2026

Minister Lawless unveils €75m capital programme under Project Ireland 2040 for healthcare education and training capacity expansion

Press Release, 26 Feb 2026

Minister Murnane O'Connor launches public consultation on the draft national drugs strategy

Press Release, 27 Feb 2026

Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy launches public consultation on the next Healthy Ireland Framework

Press Release, 5 March 2026

Minister for Health announces HSE endometriosis education programme

## 📄 Key Health Reports



### Draft National Drugs Strategy 2026-2029

The draft National Drugs Strategy 2026-2029 has been published by Minister of State Murnane O'Connor. A public consultation to seek the views of the public to ensure it addresses current and future challenges will be launched in the coming weeks. The strategy strongly reinforces that drug and alcohol use should be treated as a **health issue**, not a criminal one, with an emphasis on early intervention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery rather than punitive responses.

🔗 [Read Strategy](#)

📌 **Key messages:**

The draft National Drugs Strategy signals:

- **A strengthened role for GPs** in prevention, early intervention, treatment coordination, and long-term recovery support.
- **More integrated pathways** between general practice and addiction services.

- **Greater clinical complexity** as polydrug use and high-risk substances increase.
- **A shift toward comprehensive, standardised treatment frameworks**, potentially expanding training and support for GPs.
- **Closer involvement in new diversion programmes** that route people away from criminal justice and into healthcare.

## Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) Round-up

### February & March 2026 Therapeutics Today

This monthly newsletter is produced by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) who are based in St James's Hospital. Evidence-based information is provided to prescribers to promote the safe, effective and efficient use of medicines.



### TRIP Database: Evidence for Primary Care – Vol 17 February

A monthly summary of some of the most important new documents for primary care that have recently been added to the Trip Database.

### **The Continuity Conundrum (and Other Things the Evidence Is Trying to Tell Us)**

If there's one theme emerging from this month's evidence, it's that patients don't just want access — they want continuity.

### HSE Health and Wellbeing News – Issue 28: February

Includes the '**Working together to make Every Move Count**' Webinar Series which launches in April. The webinar series aims to support healthcare professionals to raise the topic of physical activity and actively support patients to become more active. Over the course of a four-webinar series, information on a wider range of supports for health professionals will be shared.

### Free Climate Change Training for Healthcare Educators

Family doctors, GP educators and clinicians – here's a great opportunity to strengthen your skills in climate-informed clinical care. **Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health** is offering a free, live-virtual Climate Medicine programme designed to help healthcare professionals integrate climate and health into education and everyday practice. The 16-session course covers core climate and health content along with practical approaches to caring for patients in a changing climate. A certificate of participation is available for those who meet attendance and assessment requirements.

### Understanding Bias and Random Error in Medical Research With Dr Furukawa

In this episode of the **JAMA Evidence User's Guide to the Medical Literature Podcast**, host Gordon Guyatt, MD, MSc, is joined by Toshi Furukawa, MD, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Kyoto University School of Public Health. Together, they break down key terminology, explain how risk of bias is evaluated, and discuss the role of random error, using clear examples from various study designs.

## Spotlight on Irish Articles

**1. The long-term general practice healthcare of women with a history of gestational diabetes.**

O'Flynn et al., *Endocr Pract.* 2026 Feb 12;S1530-891X(26)00782-2. doi: 10.1016/j.eprac.2026.02.006.

 [Read Full Text](#)

**2. Designing an implementation strategy to improve referral from general practice to a National Diabetes Prevention Programme using a Delphi survey with healthcare professionals and the Behaviour Change Wheel.**

Haseldine et al., *BMJ Open.* 2026 Feb 16;16(2):e104300. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2025-104300.

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**3. Urgent Virtual Care: Impact on GP, Emergency, and Scheduled Care Pathways.**

Das et al., *Ir Med J.* 2026 Feb 19;119(2):23.

 [Read Full Text](#)

**4. 'Why wouldn't I want to go?': doctor migration, retention, return, and Ireland's future medical workforce.**

Humphries & Byrne, *Eur J Public Health.* 2026 Feb 1;36(Supplement\_1):i14-i19. doi: 10.1093/eurpub/ckaf230.

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**5. How direct healthcare professional communications are operationalised by general practitioners and community pharmacists in Ireland.**

Ryan et al., *Int J Clin Pharm.* 2026 Mar 11. doi: 10.1007/s11096-026-02105-3.

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**6. Prevalence and Incidence of Diabetes-Related Peripheral Neuropathy, Peripheral Artery Disease, Foot Ulcers and Lower Extremity Amputations in Ireland.**

Kavanagh et al., *J Foot Ankle Res.* 2026 Mar;19(1):e70147. doi: 10.1002/jfa2.70147.

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**7. Identifying and measuring important outcomes for evaluating the impact of pharmacist prescribing in Ireland.**

Ali et al., *Explor Res Clin Soc Pharm.* 2026 Feb 16;22:100720. doi: 10.1016/j.rcsop.2026.100720.

 [Read Full Text](#)

## Spotlight on Research Articles

### 1. Care of Bereaved Persons.

Ahluwalia et al., *Ann Intern Med.* 2026 Feb 3. doi: 10.7326/ANNALS-24-03679.

 [Read Full Text](#)

### 2. Frailty, polypharmacy, and the case for pragmatic prescribing in primary care.

Hanlon et al., *The Lancet Primary Care*, 2026; 2.

 [Read Full Text](#)

### 3. Menopausal hormone therapy and long-term mortality.

Mikkelsen et al., *BMJ.* 2026 Feb 18;392:e085998. doi: 10.1136/bmj-2025-085998.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

### 4. Long-term beta blocker prescribing after myocardial infarction in European primary care (PRACTITIONER).

Zanger et al., *BMC Prim Care.* 2026 Feb 9;27(1):93. doi: 10.1186/s12875-026-03208-6.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

### 5. Palliative care integration in primary health care across the life course: a global health imperative.

Rosa et al., *The Lancet Primary Care*, 2026; 0.

 [Read Full-Text](#)

## Top Tip from the Library – ASKTRIP

- ✓ AskTrip launched on 25 June 2025 and has grown to over 10,000 clinical Q&As.
- ✓ AskTrip is an AI-powered tool that helps clinicians quickly explore high-quality evidence in response to clinical questions.
- ✓ Simply type your question, and the system presents a clear, referenced summary to inform your thinking — all designed to complement clinical judgement.

Click here to access: [ASKTRIP](#)

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