

Source A

**This is an article that ran in the Guardian just as the NHS was being set up in 1948.**

## Creation of NHS heralds new era in British healthcare

A national health service for all citizens, funded by taxation, marks a fundamental shift in welfare policy  
First published on Friday 5 July 1948

Today the National Health Service Act comes into force, and the passing of the milestone will be hailed with a chorus of praise, some of it perhaps too complacent. We are in process of making a great move forward. But only the first step, the legislative part of the move, is now completed. The larger part of the task is to come. It is a moment of opportunity, not of achievement.

The health service which comes into being to-day is only the ground floor of the building. The rest will come; but it still wants building, not by M.P.s or civil servants in Whitehall but by doctors and nurses and opticians and many more, by members of the regional hospital boards and the local hospital committees. There is now something solid to build on. The Act puts the hospital services as never before on a sound and rational base; the regional boards will be able to make the best use of what hospitals there are.

But they know better than anyone that new and better planned hospitals (and many more nurses in them) will be needed before we can call the hospital services wholly satisfactory. The whole population becomes, for the first time, entitled to the medical services hitherto available only to insured workers; the scandal of "under-doctored" areas will slowly disappear. But the full fruit of these reforms will not be ripe until the system of health centres has had time to grow, and that growth would be gradual even if lack of bricks and mortar did not inhibit it at the start. One must think of the health service as a huge natural organism in process of growth, not as a creature of magic, called out of the void by the wand of the Minister of Health.

Source B

## **A perfect storm: welfare meets healthcare.**

Posted on June 24, 2012 – taken from ‘A Better NHS’ blog

I came into work on my morning off last week to drain an abscess on Nigel’s back. It was the third abscess I’d drained on him in the last three months. His body is covered with skin sores, testament to poorly controlled diabetes resulting in chronically raised blood sugar levels and a severely compromised immune system. The history of the last decade of his life is etched into his skin. If you study his post-septic scars, like the criss-crossed forearms of my patients who self harm, you will see that there are times of rapid growth; concentrations of old scars, faded over the years, are unmistakably periods of intense suffering and loss of control. A human dendrochronology, like the rings of an old tree, the tightest concentrations correlate with the hardest years.

If my patients had better housing, employment, education and financial security I’m sure I would see a lot less of them. When they come to see me, relief of the acute symptoms of distress such as headaches, tiredness, dizziness, aches and pains as well as more overt anxiety and depression takes precedence over the business side of healthcare which is measured, coded and paid for, such as blood pressure or blood sugar control or an asthma or medication review. It is impossible to discuss diabetic control or smoking cessation with someone whose housing depends on her benefits which have just been cut. The diseases that will take years from someone’s life are not the ones they can take of control of when they have lost control of their finances.

Poverty and social exclusion are vital social determinants of health which have serious impacts on life expectancy; there is a difference in life expectancy of 17 years between the richest and poorest inhabitants of London.

Without serious reforms, we’ll be left with little more than our human dendrochronology.

### **Glossary**

**Dendochronology: a method of telling the age of a tree by counting its rings**

Q1: Read again Source A. Which FOUR of the following statements are TRUE?

- a) The writer believes that the NHS is a great achievement.
- b) More nurses are needed in the hospitals.
- c) The writer says that some people are complacent about the new legislation.
- d) Hospital services are wholly satisfactory.
- e) Before this, only insured workers could access medical services.
- f) New and better planned hospitals are needed.
- g) The writer believes the NHS is like a creature of magic.
- h) M.P.s need to build the NHS.

Q2: You need to refer to Source A and Source B for this question. Use details from both sources. Write a summary of the differences between the two writer's opinions.

Q3: You need only refer to Source B for this question. How does the writer use language to convey his impression of the NHS.

Q4: For this question you need to refer to the whole of Source A together with the whole of Source B. Compare how the two writers convey their different opinions on the NHS. In your answer you should:

- Compare their different ideas
- Compare the methods they use to convey their ideas
- Support your ideas with quotations from both texts