THE UK NHS

70 years of universal health coverage

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Session outline

- Birth of World's 1st universal health coverage 1948

- Early innovative policy 1950-60

- Innovative start-up investment 1960-70

- Innovation spurring growth and maturity 1970-80

- Stagnation and crisis 1980-1990

- Controlling chaotic changes 1990-2000

- Rejuvenating innovation 2000-10

- Looking to the future in a digital age 2010- Present

- "Threescore and ten I can remember well" Shakespeare Macbeth, 1605

Birth 5 July 1948

William Beveridge (the economist)

- Two fathers

- One innovative idea

- One message:

  – *Its your service NHS, its people's NHS*

**Aneurin Bevan
Health Secretary (the Politician)**

Early innovative policy 1950-60

- Strong universal health coverage principles clearly communicated in a simple language:
    - Beveridge: The NHS is based on three core principles:
        - » that it meet the needs of everyone
        - » that it be free at the point of delivery
        - » that it be based on clinical need, not ability to pay

- Strong political commitment and oversight:
    - *Bevan: "If a hospital bedpan is dropped in a ward corridor in Wales, the reverberations should echo around Parliament"*

Innovative start-up investment 1960-70s

- Innovative Hospital Plan 1962 – invested in new state of the art hospitals 1/125000 population. Big spending.

- NHS victim of early success- shortage of staff. Innovative recruitment of doctors from India, nurses from the Caribbean.

- Innovative investment in medical education. University Hospitals and Nursing Colleges Invented. Pioneering work: first kidney and heart transplants

- Innovation from BMJ and RCN -Unionization of medical staff

- Innovative preventative programmes rolled out through NHS- vaccination eliminated polio/TB and the pill improved reproductive health
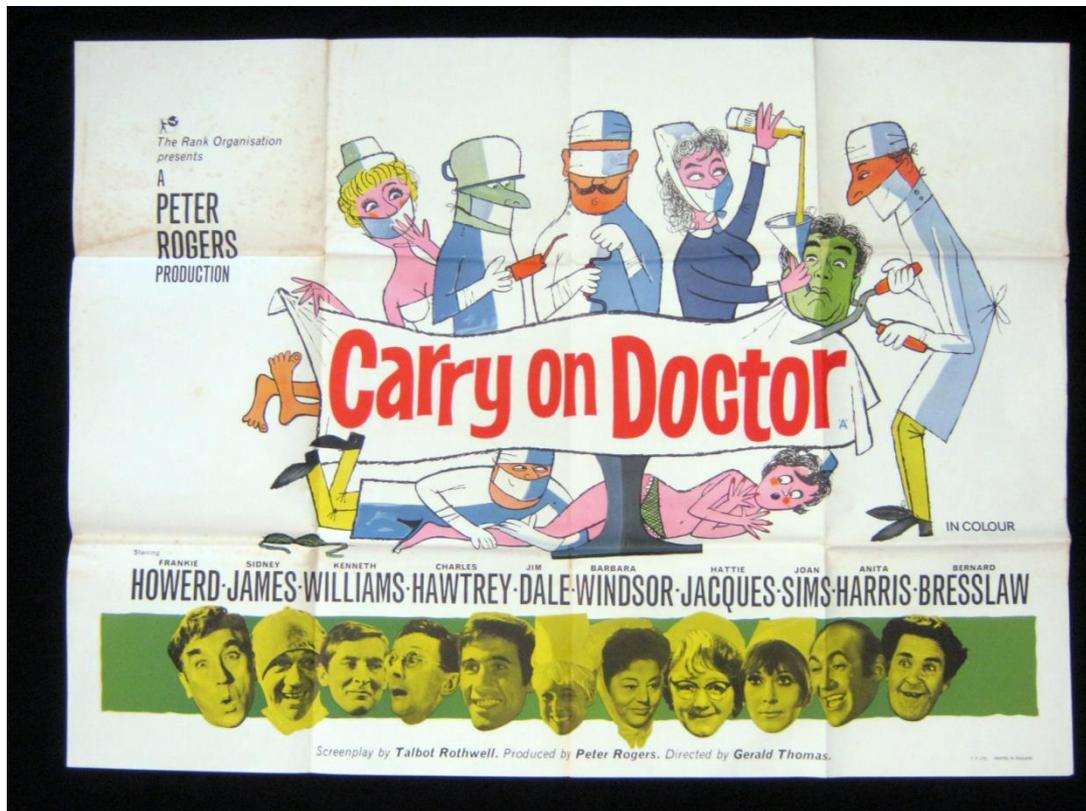

Indian GPs vs English GPs 1968

Innovation spurring growth 1970-80

- Investment in new diagnostics technology- CT scans improving diagnostic speed and accuracy

- Revolutionised paediatric care and adopted a life-course approach

- Turn the NHS wards into research labs-new curative treatments (leukaemia- 1st bone marrow transplant)

- Adopt patient friendly MRI scanners 1980s and keyhole surgery 1981 to improve quality of service and outcomes

- Noble Prizes for NHS doctors and academics for medical innovation

Stagnation and crisis 1980-1990

- Victim of own success- patients abuse services, wastage and no budget control (over prescription of drugs)

- Economic recession: Monetarist PM Margaret Thatcher elected

- Thatcher cuts NHS budgets and calls for NHS reform

- Open warfare between the BMA and the Government

- NHS quality standards drop-patient safety at risk

- Professor Black: Health Inequality Report

NHS becomes a national joke

Controlling chaotic changes 1990-2000

- NHS restructuring starts –innovative separation of provider and suppliers (internal market created)

- Innovative new institutions created NHS Trusts and NHS Direct

- NHS pay scales revised- bonus schemes brought in

- NHS health policy green and white papers begin to flow like confetti

- NHS morale all time low.

- Rationing and postcode lottery in health- waiting lists become political

- 1997 New Labour wins election: "NHS not safe in Tory hands"

- National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) and Health Technology Assessment Programme created to control changes and prioritize health spend!

- NICE adopted by many UHCs

Rejuvenating innovation 2000-2010

- Patient friendly NHS walk-in centers created
- Patient engagement-Primary Care Trusts – shifting balance of power to local communities
- NHS IT programme –portable computerized records
- Foundation Hospitals- specialist health care
- Patient Choice-book and chose introduced
- Patient-dignity and privacy introduced
- NHS Constitution- Patients Charter introduced
- Care Quality Commission and Standards brought in

NHS in a Digital Age 2010-

- Local Health and Social Care Commissioning Groups –innovative local joined-up health needs and care planning
- NICE and HITA firmly entrenched in all decision making
- Digital Imagery (MRI/CT scanner) portable records accessible from anywhere
- Patient rights strengthened as human rights legislation applied to NHS
- Health Equity now a normal consideration

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Thank you