

General practice is a beautiful job; however, it is never, ever going to be easy. It takes an extraordinary amount of effort to get it right. Training must be lengthened and intensified.

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Impact of COVID-19 on primary care contacts with children and young people in England — context please

Foley *et al.*'s article¹ lacks the context of these figures with no mention of the direction that was suggested to primary care by NHS England and indeed the government.^{2,3}

The authors also fail to mention that this was also during times when no vaccination was available and some high-risk colleagues could not see patients physically. Do not forget that the lack of PPE and deaths of healthcare staff as a result of the pandemic were ever present.

I am disappointed that this article only shows figures with absolutely no context at all and meant to further chastise primary care.

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Author response

Our article does not 'chastise' primary care.¹ We fully understand the pressures that NHS primary care is currently under.² We have included the appropriate context for our figures showing falls in GP contacts with children. Our article begins by mentioning NHS England directives to protect patients and healthcare workers from COVID-19, describing that the NHS recommended remote triaging before any face-to-face contact to reduce infection risk. We also state that the public were advised to stay at home to limit transmission of COVID-19 to reduce pressures on the NHS, and that GPs were asked to prioritise consultations for urgent and serious conditions, and suspend routine appointments for planned or preventive care. Throughout our discussion, we provide suitable context for our figures by explaining that at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic remote consultations provided practical solutions for GP appointments for those shielding or self-isolating.

Hence, our message is that GPs were able to manage children and young people safely during the most challenging period of this pandemic. This was a time when there were shortages in protective equipment, and when the risk to healthcare workers was highest. All those working in primary care should be proud of how they rose to meet these challenges at the start of the pandemic.³

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Corrections

Mona Johnson, Mary Doherty, and Sebastian CK Shaw, Overcoming barriers to autistic health care: towards autism-friendly practices. *Br J Gen Pract* 2022; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp22X719513>. An editorial error resulted in inaccurate terminology: 'people with autism', 'patients with autism', and 'adults with autism' should read as 'autistic people', 'autistic patients', and 'autistic adults'. We apologise for this error. The online version has been corrected.

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Joe Rosenthal, Richard Darnton and Alex Harding, Parity at last: a new funding model for undergraduate primary care education in England. *Br J Gen Pract* 2022; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp22X719525>. This article is Open Access: CC BY 4.0 licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This statement has been added to the online version.

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