The voluntary hospitals in history
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Find out more about the voluntary hospital system which formed part of the health care provision in the UK prior to the establishment of the NHS.
http://www.hospitalsdatabase.lshtm.ac.uk/the-voluntary-hospitals-in-history.php

National Health Service history
Geoffrey Rivett
For those of you looking for a more in-depth history of the development of the NHS, this website outlines the key political, policy and service developments by decade.
http://www.nhshistory.net

Policy Navigator
Health Foundation
This interactive tool enables you to explore how health policy has developed since the establishment of the NHS in 1948. It groups together policy developments across six themes: the provider landscape, adult social care and integration, choice and competition, commissioning, public health and the provider landscape and regulation.
https://navigator.health.org.uk
NHS reform timeline
*Nuffield Trust*
This interactive timeline charts key policy milestones which shaped the evolution of the NHS from 1948 to the present day.

Never again? The story of the Health and Social Care Act 2012
*The King’s Fund* and *Institute for Government*
Find out why and how the 2012 NHS reforms came about and what the aims of the reforms were.
[https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/never-again](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/never-again)

Doomed to repeat? Lessons from the history of NHS reform
*Nuffield Trust*
Since 2000 the NHS in England has seen at least six major national plans, accompanied by at least ten reorganisations at various levels. This essay collection looks at the history of NHS reform and asks what lessons we can learn for the future of the health service.
[https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/comment-series/doomed-to-repeat-it](https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/comment-series/doomed-to-repeat-it)

**Structure of the health and care system**

Departmental overview: Department of Health & Social Care
*National Audit Office*
What is the role of the Department of Health & Social Care? This briefing provides an overview on the roles and responsibilities of the central government department that oversees the NHS and social care in England.

A short guide to selected health arm’s-length bodies
*National Audit Office*
This short guide summarises the work of Public Health England, the Care Quality Commission, NHS Improvement, NHS Resolution, Health Education England, NHS Digital and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

A short guide to the Department of Health and NHS England
*National Audit Office*
This short guide summarises the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Health and NHS England, how much they spend and who they are accountable to.
The structure of the NHS in England
House of Commons Library
This briefing provides an overview of the funding and accountability between organisations in the NHS and outlines the roles and responsibilities of these organisations.
https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7206

The structure of the health and social care system in England
Nuffield Trust
How do all the organisations in the health and social care system relate to each other? This chart details the relationship between these organisations and how the money flows between them.

How is the NHS structured?
The King’s Fund
These charts explain how NHS services are regulated and commissioned and also how the money flows through the system.

‘The world’s biggest quango’: the first five years of NHS England
The King’s Fund and Institute for Government
Established as a result of the 2012 reforms, NHS England was originally established as a statutory independent board with the aim of distancing politicians from the day-to-day running of the NHS. This report draws on interviews with some of those most intimately involved in the first five years of NHS England.
https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/worlds-biggest-quango-nhs-england

General practice in England
House of Commons Library
This briefing explains how general practice is funded and structured in England. It also looks forward at the future challenges that is facing this service and the work that is being undertaken to meet these challenges.
https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7194

Community health services explained
The King’s Fund
Community health services play a key role in keeping people well, treating and managing illnesses and long-term conditions, and supporting people to live independently in their own homes. Find out more about this part of health care system in this explainer.
https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/community-health-services-explained

Treatment and support
Rethink Mental Illness
Find out more about mental health services in England, what treatment they provide and how they work together.
https://www.rethink.org/advice-information/living-with-mental-illness/treatment-and-support/
Jargon buster
NHS Providers
The NHS, itself a three-letter acronym, is full of jargon and acronyms. Find out the definitions and explanations for these terms in this online glossary.
https://nhsproviders.org/programmes/governwell/support-and-guidance/jargon-buster

Glossary for NHS and local government finance and governance
The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy
This publication provides a glossary of financial and governance terms that are frequently used in the NHS and local government.

Key information about the NHS

NHS key statistics: England, February 2019
House of Commons Library
This briefing summarises NHS demand, performance and capacity of services in England. It covers A&E statistics, waiting lists, ambulance data, delayed discharges, staffing levels including doctors and nurses, and more.
http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7281

Facts and figures on the NHS at 70
Nuffield Trust
This slidepack provides statistics and information, comparing the NHS in 1948 with now. It focuses on NHS spending, staffing, biggest killers, life expectancy, death rates and more.
https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/media/fact-and-figures-on-the-nhs-at-70

NHS statistics, facts and figures
NHS Confederation
Find out more about key facts on NHS funding, services, staff, patient experience and public opinion.
https://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/key-statistics-on-the-nhs
The four UK health systems: learning from each other  
*The King’s Fund*

How do the health systems of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland compare to one another and what can the English NHS learn from the approach of the other systems?  

The organisation of the NHS in the UK: comparing structures in the four countries  
*National Assembly for Wales*

This paper outlines the main differences between the health care systems in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and pays particular attention to how the systems work together across the UK.  

International profiles of health care systems  
*The Commonwealth Fund*

How does the NHS compare to other health care systems around the world? This report covers the funding, organisation, governance and quality of health care systems across 19 countries.  

Health systems in Transition (HiT) series  
*World Health Organization (WHO)*

This series of reports describes in detail the structure, organization, policy initiatives and funding and governance of health systems around the world.  

Got a question?  

Get in touch with The King’s Fund library service. Whatever the question, our free enquiry service will soon have you up to speed.  

Ready for the next step?  

If you’d like to discover more beyond *The NHS Explained* online course and want to dig deeper, take a look at our website:  
[https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/health-care-explained/our-wider-work](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/health-care-explained/our-wider-work)