



Current Awareness Service for Health

An Introduction to Current Awareness in the NHS

What this user guide covers:

This user guide provides an introduction to and overview of the various current awareness services (CAS) available within the NHS.

1. What is Current Awareness?

The practice of keeping up-to-date with new developments in your area of work is referred to as 'current awareness' or 'alerting services'.

Current awareness can take various forms, including scanning a key journal or subscribing to RSS or email alerts. These user guides focus on the latter – the various ways in which you can utilise technology to keep up-to-date in your area of practice.

2. Current Awareness Service for Health (CASH)

CASH is a collaborative service provided by Library and Knowledge Services (LKS) from around England who monitor and capture content from across a number of subject areas – but not all!

The content is added to the central [CASH Database](#) and is made available to search or be streamed as a newsfeed, using RSS technology. The LKS can use the feeds to produce newsletters or bulletins which can be produced at a frequency to suit their customers.

CASH also provides access to a [Daily Health News](#) page, bulletin and newsfeed. The Daily Health News is a daily round-up of health news produced by Knowledge Service of the EMBED Health Consortium and the Knowledge Services team at Derbyshire County Council Public Health.

3. Finding your way around the CASH website

You can browse the CASH website without having to Login, although some pages may only be visible with a user account e.g. the Knowledge Managers pages.

TO help navigate there is an A-Z of all the subjects available from the Homepage and top Menu. Click on a letter to see a list of subjects.

The screenshot shows the NHS Current Awareness Service for Health website. At the top left is the NHS logo and the text 'Current Awareness Service for Health'. At the top right is the NHS logo and a 'Login' button. Below the logo is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter keywords...'. A navigation menu is located below the search bar, with 'Subjects' highlighted. Below the navigation menu is a breadcrumb trail: 'You are here: > Home > Subject A-Z'. The main content area is titled 'News by Subject A-Z'. It contains a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search all subjects' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a grid of letters from A to X, arranged in two rows: A-L in the first row and M-X in the second row. The letters are enclosed in boxes. To the left of the main content area is a sidebar with a list of subjects: Home, About us, Subject A-Z (highlighted), A, B, C, D.

The content on each page will usually contain the latest news on that subject, additional links and resources, including relevant journals and sometimes bulletins produced by a LKS.

4. Localised current awareness services

Most NHS health libraries provide some form of current awareness or alerting service. This may include any of the following:

- Table of Contents (TOC) alerts for key journal titles
- Current awareness bulletins highlighting newly published research or news items within a particular subject area
- Email alerting services

[Contact your local health library](#) for details of what services are available.

5. Accessing the full text of journal articles

Some journal articles you find using CASH (or any other current awareness service) may be available in full text. OpenAthens is an access management system which controls access to resources on the internet which have been purchased for the use of the NHS in England. More specifically, OpenAthens provides access to certain databases and full text journals.

You can [register for an OpenAthens password](#) online. To speed up the application process it is best to register from a PC at your workplace. Once you have an OpenAthens password, you can use it anywhere that you have internet access.