

# Historical Milestones

1913

## Highlands and Islands Medical Service established

Forerunner of the UK NHS – a state-funded, centrally-controlled, comprehensive health service set up 35 years earlier.

1936

## Cathcart report published

Influential report setting out a vision for a new Scottish health service with the general practitioner at its heart.

1937

## The Citadel published

Best selling novel by AJ Cronin followed by Hollywood film in 1938 paints dire picture of pre-war health provision.

1939

## Emergency Hospital Service launched

New hospitals built to deal with expected civilian air raid casualties and threat of invasion. Scotland makes full use of them in the run-up to the NHS.

1942

## Beveridge Report

Economist William Beveridge sets out his vision of post-war Welfare State to banish from Britain the evils of the Five Giants - want, ignorance, squalor, idleness and disease.

1948

## NHS comes into being

July 5 was the official "vesting" day of the National Health Service across the UK. In Scotland the service was set up by separate act passed in 1947.

1951

## Airlifts of Scottish TB patients to Switzerland

Rising levels of tuberculosis and a chronic shortage of beds and nurses lead to a special scheme for Scottish patients to be treated in Swiss sanatoria.

1952

## Prescription Charges

Introduced January 1952 – 1 shilling or 5p.

1954

**Smoking kills**

Medical Research Council study by Richard Doll and Austin Bradford Hill of UK doctors shows link between smoking and lung cancer.

1957

**Interferon**

Fundamental scientific discovery by Glaswegian Alick Isaacs in London of a substance produced by cells to ward off attack by viruses.

1958

**Ultrasound**

Glasgow produces the first practical ultrasound scanners which in modern forms continue to save countless lives across the world.

1959

**First UK nursing studies unit in Edinburgh**

Scotland proves a world leader in nursing education and research.

1960

**First successful kidney transplant in UK**

Sir Michael Woodruff leads a team at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary which on October 30, gives a 49 year old man a kidney from his twin brother.

1961

**Thalidomide**

Drug prescribed for morning sickness and a sedative for pregnant women is found to cause terrible side effects – children born with severe limb deformities.

1963

**World's first chair in general practice**

Established by Edinburgh University with the appointment of Professor Richard Scott.

1964

**Aberdeen Typhoid outbreak**

The first major public health scare for the NHS – attracting frenzied media attention.

1972

**Apoptosis**

A fundamental discovery in Aberdeen shows how cells are programmed to commit suicide.

1972

**NHS Scotland Act**

First major reorganisation of the NHS since 1948 establishes 15 health boards and other bodies for a more efficient and fully integrated service.

1973

**Chief Scientist Office**

New body within the Health Department to harness and support research to improve the Scottish NHS. Sir Andrew Watt Kay is its first director.

1974

**Glasgow Coma scale**

Simple set of measures now in use around the world of a patient's level of consciousness to chart progress of recovery.

1974

**NHS family planning**

Formal provision of free contraceptive advice and family planning services to all, irrespective of age or marital status.

1975

**Enkephalins**

Enkephalins or endorphins - the natural opiates produced by the brain which kill pain – discovered in Aberdeen.

1980

**MRI Scans**

The world's first clinical service for MRI is launched by Dr Francis Smith at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

1980

**Black Report**

Highlights a growing gap between rich and poor in Britain, despite the all the investment in the welfare state and the NHS.

1982

**AIDS**

First case of AIDS identified in Scotland. Infection rates in drug users later found to be among the highest in Europe.

1988

**Breast cancer screening**

UK programme introduced following report by Sir Patrick Forrest, professor of surgery at Edinburgh University.

1988

**Sir James Black wins Nobel Prize for Medicine**

Black's twin drug discoveries, among the most important of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, have saved countless lives around the world.

1989

**Internal Market Introduced**

The most fundamental change to the National Health Service since its inception brings in the idea of competition and a market for health services

1989

**Keyhole Surgery**

First UK use of minimal access surgery to remove a patient's gall bladder is carried out by Sir Alfred Cuschieri at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

1992

**Private Finance Initiative (PFI)**

Brings in private firms to build and then maintain non-clinical services in new hospitals. Since extends to schools and other public buildings.

1993

**Community Care**

Fundamental shift in care with the formal introduction of changes to support people at home rather than institutions.

1997

**Designed to Care**

Scottish White Paper sets out the new Government's stall for phasing out the internal market and with it GP fundholding and contracting for services.

1997

**MRSA**

Scottish Reference Laboratory is set up in April to help combat the rise of MRSA – an increasingly common infection affecting hospitals around the world

1999

**Free Personal Care**

Royal Commission recommends this for older people. England rejects it but the Scottish Parliament introduces it in 2002

2000

**Adults With Incapacity (AWIA) Act**

First major piece of legislation by the new Scottish Parliament.

2004

**Abolition of NHS trusts**

The National Health Service Reform (Scotland) Act passed on May 6 abolishes trusts which are absorbed into health boards.

2004

**Paramedics give clot-busting drugs**

Early treatment of patients where they have a heart attack saves lives.

2005

**National Framework for Service Change**

Calls on people to take more responsibility for their own health, view the NHS as a service delivered mainly in local communities and to anticipate and prevent rather than react.

2005

**Smoking Ban**

Passed by Parliament. Applies to all bars, clubs restaurants and all public enclosed places in Scotland and takes effect in March 2006.

2008

**A Mutual NHS**

New SNP Government announces its programme for the future of the NHS based on the principles of mutuality - with patients and the public as partners rather than recipients of care.