Activity 1: Potential impacts of future developments

Complete the worksheet to evaluate how future developments will impact patients and healthcare staff. Try to make at least two points in each box. Some boxes have been completed for you.

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| Future Developments  (include a simple description) | Benefits to patient | Benefits to healthcare staff | Disadvantages |
| Funding of public health  Most of the funding comes from general taxation and national insurance contributions. | Increased funding may lead to reduced waiting times for treatments and appointments, ensuring that patients receive timely care.  Extra funding may enable the NHS to invest in new technologies, equipment, and facilities, which can lead to improved diagnosis and treatment outcomes. |  |  |
| Private healthcare | More services available, so greater patient choice including treatment providers and speed of service.  There may be access to more advanced treatments. |  |  |
| Changes in demographics | Healthcare services can be better tailored to meet the specific needs of different age groups, ensuring that patients receive appropriate care.  Increased emphasis on preventive care can result from changing demographics, helping to reduce the burden of chronic diseases and improve overall population health. |  |  |
| Technological infrastructure  Computer systems connect NHS staff with patient histories and test results, coordinating treatment plans and promoting continuity of care. | Patients can access their records and manage appointments via the NHS app. | Improved technological services will help the NHS meet the demands that it faces by:   * increasing workforce productivity (for example triaging systems can direct users to a particular service) * optimising resource allocation * reducing errors and improving safety. * Improving diagnostics |  |
| Regenerative medicine  Regenerative medicine regenerates damaged organs or tissues that are not easily repaired. |  |  |  |
| Biomarkers  Biomarkers are biological molecules found in blood or tissues that are signs of a condition or disease. | Biomarkers can be used to track the progress of treatment for a condition.  They can provide more personalised treatment for patients’ needs.  They can identify early signs of disease (such as cardiovascular disease)  Biomarkers may accelerate availability of new therapeutics |  |  |
| Remote care  Video consultations | Online/virtual consultations may be more appropriate for people with mobility issues, those who live in remote areas or for out-of-hours emergency consultations.  Mobile clinics/screenings reduce travel and waiting times. | Makes collaboration between different specialists easier, leading to better patient outcomes.  Continuity of care is facilitated by virtual ongoing monitoring and follow-up consultations. |  |
| Patient self-management  Patient self-management involves identifying strategies to help patients self-manage their condition and improve their health outcomes. |  | Effective self-management of diseases helps stretch NHS funding further by:   * reducing appointment scheduling * reducing emergency visits * reducing hospitalisations. |  |
| Artificial intelligence |  | Digital images and AI can be used to triage cases, improving the quality and consistency of the diagnoses and therefore treatment.  Workflow is made more efficient. |  |