

How do you find out more?

You may want to see more detailed guides to the Constitution or the full text of the Constitution itself.

You can find them on:
www.dh.gov.uk/consultations

Or you can obtain copies:

online
www.orderline.dh.gov.uk

by email
dh@prolog.uk.com

by phone
0300 123 1002

or by post
**PO Box 777
London SE1 6XH**

The consultation on the Constitution will run until 17 October 2008.

After we have listened, the NHS Constitution will be finalised.

"People are putting their health and trust in us"

Find out more at www.dh.gov.uk/consultations

How can you have your say?

This consultation invites comments from everyone who pays for, uses or works in the NHS.

We want to know:

- **is it clear?**
- **do you agree with the approach it takes?**
- **how can we use it to improve NHS services?**

Let us know what you think:

by email
nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk

or by post
**NHS Constitution
Room 611a
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS**

There will be consultation events running all over England – details of which you can find out about from your local primary care trust.

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For further copies email dh@prolog.uk.com
or visit www.orderline.dh.gov.uk

"Everyone should be treated as an individual"

Find out more at www.dh.gov.uk/consultations



It's your NHS

**Know your rights.
Take responsibility.
Get involved.**

Quick Guide to the
proposed NHS Constitution



Find out more at www.dh.gov.uk/consultations

The proposed NHS Constitution: What is it?

The NHS belongs to the people. It is there to improve our health, supporting us to keep mentally and physically well, get better when we are ill and, when we cannot recover, stay as well as we can.

We are proposing a set of principles and values that should guide everything we do, including a commitment to providing a comprehensive service, available to all without discrimination, and based on clinical need – not ability to pay.

The proposed Constitution:

- **safeguards the future of the NHS**

It reaffirms the NHS principles and values.

- **gives power to all patients and the public**

For the first time, important rights are brought together, so that everyone knows what they are entitled to, and what to do if they don't get what they should.

- **sets out how we can all play our part**

It explains the responsibilities of public, patients and staff.

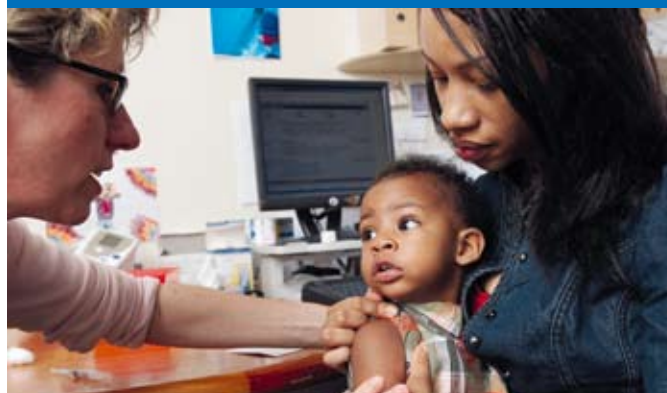
- **recognises that staff are our most important asset and the key to quality.**

Patients and the public: What's in it for you?

The proposed Constitution includes a clear explanation of your rights.

Some of the key rights:

- Your right to drugs approved for NHS use if recommended by your doctor, and to an explanation of all decisions made about funding your treatment – which means that decisions will be clear and rational, not a 'lottery' of access.
- Your right to make choices about your NHS care and to be given the information you need in order to do so – which means that you can be informed about, and involved in, your own healthcare.
- Your right to have your say in the planning and development of local services – which means that your local NHS should reflect what you think is important.



"I want to know that the NHS is there when my family needs it."

Find out more at www.dh.gov.uk/consultations

You work in the NHS: What's in it for you?

It is the loyalty, professionalism and dedication of staff that make the difference to quality of care in the NHS. The proposed Constitution recognises this in the following ways:

- By setting out a vision where all staff have rewarding and worthwhile jobs, are trusted and listened to, and are supported to deliver care and act in the interests of patients.
- By pledging to deliver personal development, training and support to enable staff to do a good job.
- By clearly stating what the NHS promises to patients and the public and what it expects of them, so that there is clarity for staff in their jobs.
- By proposing a set of NHS-wide values to reinforce what matters to staff and patients.



"I really feel I am making a difference."

Find out more at www.dh.gov.uk/consultations