

How we are improving the NHS for patients

The NHS is there to care for everyone throughout their lives, based on clinical need not an individual's ability to pay. To make sure the NHS in England continues to meet the needs of the people it serves, the Government has asked it to focus on five key areas, which are set out in the first mandate to the NHS Commissioning Board, the new independent body tasked with ensuring the best possible care for NHS patients.



The NHS will:

Help people live longer, and reduce the number of early deaths from those illnesses that can be prevented through better early diagnosis and treatment, such as cancer and heart disease, so that more people can enjoy a long and healthy old age

Help people manage their ongoing physical and mental health conditions such as dementia, diabetes, and depression so that they can stay independent and have a better quality of life, and so that care is joined up across services like GP surgeries, district nurses and midwives, care homes and hospitals

Help people recover from episodes of ill-health or injury, such as after a stroke or other emergency or a planned operation, so that they can regain independence as quickly as possible

Make sure people experience better care, not just better treatment, so that everyone can expect to be treated with compassion, dignity and respect whenever they come into contact with the NHS

Provide safe care, so that everyone is treated in a clean and safe environment and people are at a lower risk of avoidable health problems such as infections, blood clots or bed sores