



The NHS in England

Overview

NHS England leads the National Health Service (NHS) in England. It sets the priorities and direction of the NHS and encourages and informs the national debate to improve health and care. Funding for the NHS comes directly from taxation. When the NHS was launched in 1948, it had a budget of £437 million (roughly £15 billion at today's value). For 2015/16, the overall NHS budget was around £116.4 billion. NHS England is managing £101.3 billion of this.

The NHS in England is the biggest part of the system by far, catering to a population of 54.3 million and employing around 1.2 million people. Of those, the clinically qualified staff include 150,273 doctors, 40,584 general practitioners (GPs), 314,966 nurses and health visitors, 18,862 ambulance staff, and 111,127 hospital and community health service (HCHS) medical and dental staff. With the exception of some charges, such as prescriptions, optical services and dental services, the NHS in England remains free at the point of use.

A lot of the work in NHS England involves the commissioning of health care services in England including the contracts for GPs, pharmacists and dentists. They also support local health services that are led by groups of GPs called Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). CCGs plan and pay for local services such as hospitals and ambulance services.

General Practice in England

There are 42,000 GPs and 7,613 GP Practices in England.

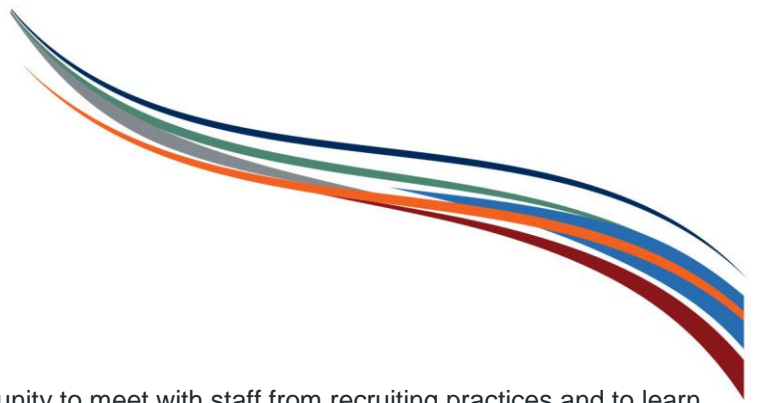
NHS England's 'General Practice Forward View', published in 2016, sets out an ambitious plan to support and transform general practice. At the heart of this plan are measures to recruit an additional 5,000 GPs by 2020, including an international recruitment drive (the International GP Recruitment Programme) to encourage 2000 family doctors from overseas to consider coming to the UK to build a career as a GP.

As part of the programme, there are recruitment schemes covering 14 areas of England with more areas due to join the programme in early 2018. You can see the full list of areas covered by the programme at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/workforce/building-the-general-practice-workforce/international-gp-recruitment/international-recruitment-sites/>.

Overseas GPs recruited as part of the programme will be supported with dedicated training programmes about general practice in England. Support will also be provided to help with language requirements and meeting the standards of the national Induction and Refresher (I&R) Scheme.

Image supplied by VisitBritain





GPs applying to the schemes will have an opportunity to meet with staff from recruiting practices and to learn more about the practices and their local areas. Practices involved in the schemes will be offering attractive and competitive salaries. The schemes will also be offering help with relocation for GPs and their families, and on-going support to help them feel at home in England.

[NHS England](#)

[NHS England Five Year Forward View](#)

[General Practice in NHS England](#)

[NHS England International GP Recruitment Programme](#)

