
NHS Alliance and Primary Care Foundation respond to Jeremy Hunt's announcement on reducing workload in general practice



NHS Alliance and Primary Care Foundation welcome the actions identified by the Secretary of State in today's announcement, but caution that increased support and resource is needed to make these changes a reality on the ground.



The organisations are pleased to see that key recommendations in the joint report, Making Time in General Practice, have been addressed in recent policy announcements, including:

- Introducing a single payment system that covers all transactions to stop GP practices chasing different organisations for payment;
- Allowing patients to re-book hospital appointments rather than needing another referral from their GP; and,
- Making general practice paperless by 2018.

While these commitments are welcome, NHS Alliance and Primary Care Foundation caution that resources must be made available to ensure practices are given the headroom to develop new ways of working. Joining up primary and secondary care work together will take time and effort, as too will implementing the paperless practice.

Rick Stern, chief executive of NHS Alliance, and a director of Primary Care Foundation, said: "While we welcome today's announcements from the Secretary of State, it is important that new measures for transforming the way practices work are backed up by increased investment. Investing in general practice and primary care has the potential to create huge savings elsewhere in the NHS, helping to meet demanding efficiency targets, but also improving patient care."

Notes to editors

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NHS Alliance is an independent, not-for-profit, leadership organisation representing progressive providers of care outside hospital. Neither professional body nor trade union, it is an entirely solutions focused organisation, unique in its approach bringing together more than 10,000 passionate individuals and organisations across primary care who believe innovation, connections and integration are key to the sustainability of a health service that remains free to all at the point of need.

The Primary Care Foundation was established in 2006 to support the development of best practice in primary and urgent care. The foundation specialises in carrying out reviews, based on analysing a range of data sources and examining local practice, that make local and national recommendations. It also look for opportunities to share learning, building resources that can solve problems more widely across the NHS. The foundation has worked with over 1,300 practices in the last 4 years on managing access and urgent care, using a specially designed web-based tool to prepare reports for practices, and discuss ways of making improvements.
