



## The NHS Constitution

### What is it?

The NHS Constitution brings together, for the first time, the principles, values, rights and responsibilities that determine the way that the NHS acts and makes decisions. It is designed to secure and renew our commitment to the enduring principles of the NHS, making sure that healthcare services continue to be relevant to the needs of patients, the public and staff in the 21st century.

### What does it do?

The NHS Constitution sets out clearly what everyone can expect from the NHS – staff, patients and the public. But it also explains the responsibilities that each of us have to make the very best of limited resources and improve our own health and well-being. The NHS Constitution confirms that the NHS belongs to us all.

### Who is it for?

The NHS belongs to us all – staff, patients and the public. The NHS Constitution sets out what everyone can expect from the NHS – and what we can all do to help it to work more effectively.

### How will it help?

As new health challenges arise – such as obesity and the consequences of people living longer – the NHS must continue to change to meet the needs of its staff, patients and the public. But the foundations on which the NHS was built must be protected – and remain constant. By setting these out clearly in the NHS Constitution, we can all have confidence that the NHS can provide a high-quality health service now and for future generations.

### How was it created?

The NHS is made up of all the different people who use and deliver its services. The NHS Constitution has been created after a wide consultation, research and discussions with staff, patients, members of the public and health service experts. It will be renewed every ten years to make sure that it continues to meet everyone's needs.

[http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/nhs\\_constitution/](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/nhs_constitution/)

