

# NHS constitution becomes statutory

The NHS constitution has come into force. NHS organisations in England are legally obliged to take account of the rights and pledges that it sets out. These include patients' rights to access NHS services, to be prescribed drugs, to treatments approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and to choices about where to receive care. The BMA had called for an NHS constitution to be introduced but fears the one produced by the government enshrines a policy of opening up the market in healthcare. Find out more about the market in healthcare at [www.lookafterournhs.org.uk](http://www.lookafterournhs.org.uk)

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