

Greater choice for NHS patients across the country

Thursday 13 October, 2011

NHS patients in England will have the freedom to choose, not only where, but who provides their hospital care from April 2012, Health Secretary Andrew Lansley announced today.

A survey carried out on behalf of the Department of Health shows that this is in line with what patients want:

over 80 per cent of patients want more choice over how and where they are treated in the NHS; and nearly three quarters of patients want more choice in who provides their hospital care.

As part of the Governments plans to modernise the NHS and improve patient choice, new guidance published today sets out how all NHS providers of care will have to accept all clinically appropriate referrals to named hospital consultant-led teams.

In addition, NHS providers will have to publish relevant information about their consultants and the services they provide, ensuring greater transparency in the NHS and enabling patients to make informed choices about their care.

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