



# GP SURVIVAL

## Junior Doctors Contract – Information for Patients

You have probably seen and heard about threatened strikes by Junior Doctors. This is because of a new contract to be imposed upon them from August 2016. This information sheet explains why the new contract matters to all of us.

### What is a Junior Doctor?

The term means any doctor who is not a GP or a Consultant. That can range to a newly qualified doctor, fresh out of 5 years of Medical School, to a very senior registrar with 10+ years of training.

### What are the changes?

The Contract Changes are complex. Although most doctors will see a reduction in their take home pay, doctors' pay is *NOT* the main issue in this dispute.

The contract seeks to redefine what 'normal' hours are. It extends them to 10pm every weekday and on Saturdays. This change will have a significant impact on hours doctors work, and this will threaten patient safety.

Currently there are safeguards in place to prevent doctors from working shifts that are too long and unsafe. This contract removes this safeguard. The result is a significant risk to patients.

### What about General Practice?

General Practice is not free from these changes, indeed the issue could be much worse. Currently GP Trainees receive a supplement; the new contract may cut this.

There is already a crisis in GP recruitment. In addition, it is estimated that one third of UK GPs will retire in the next 5 years. If the supplement is cut, many Junior Doctors may be unable to afford to train to become a GP.

### How will this affect me in the future?

We cannot predict the significance of these changes, but we do know they will affect *all* patients.

Doctors will be returned to the bad old days of working very, very long hours. The modern NHS is more intense than ever before. This combination is not safe for anyone. Worsening recruitment crises in General Practice means waiting times will be longer.

There is a real concern the changes will threaten the NHS as we know it.

For further information please contact [campaigngpsurvival@gmail.com](mailto:campaigngpsurvival@gmail.com)  
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