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Subject: FW: Fwd: PM: WE WILL DELIVER 7-DAY GP SERVICES BY 2020
Date: 5 October 2015 09:10

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Sent: 04 October 2015 11:59
To: LMC-L@LISTSERV.BMA.ORG.UK
Subject: FW: Fwd: PM: WE WILL DELIVER 7-DAY GP SERVICES BY 2020

Dear all

Just to inform you that David Cameron’s announcement on the Marr show today of a new voluntary GP contract providing 7/7 had not been previously discussed with us, and I was only informed this morning. It is clearly a pre-party conference announcement

See the DH press release below

We are preparing a press response in the first instance

Chaand

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[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

PRIME MINISTER: WE WILL DELIVER 7-DAY GP SERVICES BY 2020

- **A new GP contract to support doctors to deliver 7-day services and integrate care**
- **All patients to have access to 7-day GP care by 2020**
- **7-day hospital services rolled out to half the country by 2018**
- **7-day NHS is key part of plan to deliver security, stability and opportunity for Britain**

Millions of patients will benefit from ground-breaking plans for 7-day access to both their GPs and hospitals, the Prime Minister has announced today (Sunday) at the Conservative Party conference.

The Prime Minister has announced details of a new, voluntary contract for GPs to deliver 7-day care for all patients by 2020. He has also unveiled proposals to deliver 7-day hospital services across half the country by 2018. These are the next steps in making England the first country in the world to provide a truly 7-day health service, underpinned by a strong economy and £10 billion of investment in the NHS. The plans are a key part of the Government’s commitment to deliver security, stability and opportunity for the British people.

Speaking this morning, the Prime Minister said:

“We want a contract that helps junior doctors. We made a very big choice as a Government in our manifesto - we said that we are going to have to make difficult decisions elsewhere, but the NHS will not just be protected. It’s getting an extra £10bn of money during this parliament, over and above inflation, and that enables us to meet some really clear goals.

“I think a 7 day NHS is a really exciting prospect, because as I say, parents and people in our country want to access the NHS on a 7 day basis. Let me be clear, this doesn’t mean that all staff in the NHS have to work every 7 days, it just means the services are available, so I can announce today that we will be publishing a new GP contract to get rid of the box ticking and the form-filling.”

Last year at conference, the Prime Minister pledged to provide 7-day GP services for hardworking families throughout the country by 2020. By March 18 million people will have benefited from improved access to general practice, including appointments in the evening, at the weekend and by phone, and today’s announcement marks further progress.

The Government has listened to GP leaders who say that the time has come for a new, voluntary contract option for general practice, integrated

with community nurses and other health and care professionals, to provide more seamless, person-centred care for patients. That approach is embedded at the heart of NHS England's Five Year Forward View. This new contract will be better for GPs and better for patients, and we will fund it with money from within the £10 billion of additional investment on the back of a strong economy. That will be set out in the Spending Review. The key principles of the new contract will be:

- More money for primary care;
- More control for GPs over the way they work;
- More time to care for patients, and services 7 days a week.

The new contract will remove the bureaucratic box-ticking of Labour's 2004 GP contract – freeing up GP time to provide the quality of care that they and their patients want. Micro-management of GPs' work through the Quality and Outcomes Framework and other sorts of old-fashioned bureaucracy will be scrapped, giving doctors far greater professional control. A study published today by the Primary Care Foundation and NHS Alliance sets out a number of ways of reducing bureaucracy – including by allowing smoother rebooking of appointments and, sharing best practice, and linking more effectively with nurses and pharmacists.

As part of a new "patient guarantee", the Prime Minister announced that the Government intends to make it a requirement in its new Mandate to NHS England that they and clinical commissioning groups should ensure that every patient has access to 7-day services by 2020. We will be setting out clear milestones for delivery in the coming months. By improving access to primary care, we will be able to relieve pressure on A&E and other emergency services within the NHS.

The Government is also committing £750 million over the next three years to fund improvements in premises, technology and modern ways of working, such as supporting federations and larger practices in providing 7-day services through a flexible range of face-to-face, telephone, email and Skype consultations.

The Conservative manifesto also promised 7 day hospital services, so care quality is the same every day of the week. Recent evidence published in the British Medical Journal showed that there are 11,000 excess deaths in the NHS a year because patients do not receive the same standard of care 7 days a week.

Prime Minister David Cameron said:

"Our plans for a truly 7-day NHS will transform services for millions of patients. It will offer hardworking taxpayers and families the security of the care they need at a time that is convenient to them. I want to pay tribute to the fantastic work of GPs and indeed all NHS staff across the country. I know they face huge pressures – that is why we will direct more money into primary care and clear out bureaucracy as part of the drive to develop a new contract that will be better for patients and NHS professionals, 7 days a week."

A number of hospitals and NHS staff are already delivering 7 day care –

- In Chesterfield, scans and tests can continue at the weekend;
- In Northumbria, there are consultant-led services for emergency patients seven days a week;
- Wigan runs a lung disease service seven days a week to help keep patients well at home.

But there remains far too much variation. The Government is now guaranteeing, by the end of this Parliament, that patients who need to be in hospital will receive the same high quality assessment, diagnosis and treatment as on any other day of the week. By 2017, a quarter of the population who have urgent or emergency hospital care needs will have access to the same level of consultant assessment and review, diagnostic tests and consultant-led interventions seven days a week, including those living in Northumberland and the North East, Greater Manchester, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, Southampton, and North West London.

The Government is now giving the NHS the concrete objective of achieving 50% population coverage to those standards by 2018, and complete coverage by 2020.

New GP contract to deliver 7 day access

Family doctors are and will remain the bedrock of our NHS. They often need to have access to a range of services that can be beyond the immediate reach of the individual practice. Increasingly we want practices to work together so that they have the scale to provide those additional services that people value so much and allow them to be better doctors.

The Government will work with the medical and nursing professions to offer, by April 2017, a new contract that properly recognises the outcomes that GPs and their colleagues deliver for patients, including 7-day access.

The new contract will be voluntary, with federations or practices that cover populations of at least 30,000 patients. GPs who choose to join it will continue to work in local neighbourhood surgeries and health centres, with all the traditional benefits of family practice. But they will now be able to join forces with neighbouring GPs to form these federations and networks of practices – allowing them to deliver better integrated care and work more closely alongside community nurses, hospital specialists, pharmacists and other health and care professionals.

This will help to break down old-fashioned boundaries between GPs and hospitals, between physical and mental health, between health and social care – and enable the NHS to work better with local communities to keep people healthy and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions.

The new contract will be offered to GPs on a phased basis, starting with those groups of GPs that are most ready to work in this new way and building on the success of the pioneering Prime Minister's Challenge Fund for GP access and the NHS vanguards. In addition, the Government's £750 million GP access fund will be subject to a bidding process, with applications to be received by the end of the year and the first schemes approved in 2016.

Rolling out 7-day services in hospitals

The plans announced today will mean a dramatic improvement in standards of patient care at weekends. In the first phase, at least a quarter of the population will, by 2017, have access to services which meet the key 7-day clinical standards recommended by Prof Sir Bruce Keogh, the NHS Medical Director and supported by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

- Whatever day of the week it is, if patients are admitted to hospital in an emergency, they will be seen and have a thorough assessment by a suitable consultant as soon as possible and no more than 14 hours after arrival, over and above other treatment. If they are in a high dependency ward, they will be seen and reviewed by a consultant twice daily. If they are on a general ward, they will be reviewed during a consultant-delivered ward round at least once every 24 hours, 7 days a week. Now, only 10% of hospitals report that they meet this standard in all their clinical specialities measured in the baseline – falling as low as 33% of patients in geriatric medicine.
- Whatever day of the week it is, inpatients will get the full range of diagnostic tests, such as x-ray, ultrasound, and MRI – and then will be

given the results without delay. And they will get quick access to any urgent consultant-led treatment they need. Now, just over 10% of hospitals across England report that they provide all 14 of the diagnostic services seven days - though all the evidence shows in tackling diseases like cancer early diagnosis and treatment are the key factors in improving survival rates. Currently there is only 52% availability over 7 days for echocardiography results.

There will be 50% population coverage in all key hospital services to those same standards by 2018, and then complete coverage by 2020.

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