



THE VALUE OF A GP

This is a summary of the BMA's new report, The Value of a GP

General Practice is the foundation of the NHS, keeping people healthy in their communities and acting as a crucial gatekeeper to more specialist services. However, general practice across the UK is being pushed to the brink of collapse, with a shrinking workforce, growing patient demand, unsustainable workloads, and falling morale. If not urgently addressed, this will lead to the collapse of one of the NHS's most vital pillars.

The report highlights that:

- GP numbers have fallen across the UK, while patient lists have grown- driving up GP to patient ratios leading to dangerously high workloads and less time for quality, personalised care.
- Many practices are closing or at risk due to financial strain and chronic underfunding.
- Continuity of care is key to improving health outcomes, lowering hospital admissions, and enhancing patient satisfaction.
- GPs are under immense strain, with rising levels of stress, burnout, and many planning to leave the profession. Alarmingly, many trained GPs are unemployed or underemployed despite overwhelming patient need.
- Attempts to replace GPs with less qualified roles have increased costs and GP workloads without delivering better care.
- Investment in general practice produces strong economic returns, improving population health, boosting productivity, and easing pressure on hospitals- yet funding remains inadequate.
- The public recognises the essential role GPs play in delivering effective, compassionate care and supports increased investment in general practice.

To secure the future of the general practice, the report calls for urgent and decisive government action, including restoring core GP funding, expanding and retaining the GP workforce, protecting continuity of care, and ensuring GPs are empowered to lead in providing safe, high quality, community based care.

We must value our GPs now- general practice is at a pivotal point. Without bold and immediate action, the collapse of general practice threatens the sustainability of the entire NHS.