MINI BULLETIN – 21 December 2023

Most patients say **online consultation** systems are faster, more flexible and more efficient than traditional consultation methods, according to the largest-ever study on the issue.

**Physician associates** will be registered by the GMC under a seven-digit reference number with an alphabetical prefix, the regulator has said.

Lord Hunt

To ask His Majesty's Government how they intend to ensure the appointment of **professionally credible chief professions officers** and heads of profession for non-clinical roles within the [Department of Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FDepartment_of_Health_and_Social_Care&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872493690%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y8TtdzBmcVhF%2FwvITo1RAYsO4FrJ7vr6Kdya7N4TuVY%3D&reserved=0) and [NHS England](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS_England&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872493690%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZhazqUwCTsJW7ZSUZJvEmglidnxj1FbGISJDnXRGLWE%3D&reserved=0).

[Hansard source](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fquestions-statements.parliament.uk%2Fwritten-questions%2Fdetail%2F2023-12-12%2FHL1109&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uizFbh%2BYCMrhtrBbQucY%2BfSoHKK2TeuL1lMuM9YGqp8%3D&reserved=0)(Citation: HL Deb, 19 December 2023, cW)

[Lord MarkhamThe Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fpeer%2F%3Fp%3D26093&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=adtyrSYvs9FP24zC6pyLLdFpUIFv5wzjX4v4%2B1p5Ldg%3D&reserved=0)

The Department and [NHS England](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS_England&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Ah3a%2BqBpUbAsQxIIhubWiV%2F2K1ZiQdTRLhz95Pn1Q0A%3D&reserved=0) ensure that roles are advertised with clear information on the key skills, experience, behaviours and professional requirements and how these will be assessed.

Diverse selection Panels comprising suitably qualified and senior individuals are tasked with undertaking shortlisting and relevant interviews and assessments before rigorous pre-employment checks are undertaken for the successful candidate(s).

These cover, at a minimum, checks on identity, right to work in the United Kingdom, professional registration and qualification checks and employment history.

These practices ensure we recruit senior colleagues with the required professional credibility and that we appoint the right person for the job.

[Wes StreetingShadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D25320&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yeJVzSwqHaatxkkmHqIMYAYAA2mi6gBNYcV5pFWVGqw%3D&reserved=0)

To ask the [Secretary of State](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fglossary%2F%3Fgl%3D23&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nR%2BBth0GiIJoUBJK8N9WMUpHnTm3MetBls62aj5B%2Fzo%3D&reserved=0) for Health and Social Care, what estimate she has made of the proportion of **Pharmacists** who supply prescription-only medicines without a [GP](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FGP&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B9W7aOh4vknemMxyISvLuWuzjCK1vw7RKDit7ix2fI4%3D&reserved=0) appointment for:

(a) sinusitis

(b) sore throat

(c) earache

(d) infected insect bite

(e) impetigo

(f) shingles, and

(g) uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

[Hansard source](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fquestions-statements.parliament.uk%2Fwritten-questions%2Fdetail%2F2023-12-12%2F6543&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jze8wxG1aUQhRsccrugcHvJ%2FeYQ1JCsQBaZ133hxSdI%3D&reserved=0)(Citation: HC Deb, 20 December 2023, cW)

[Andrea Leadsom](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D24829&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cArHjtA08tpsK1NueqJLEXQaymiSTDIDXENXn4WLHJk%3D&reserved=0)[The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D24829&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cArHjtA08tpsK1NueqJLEXQaymiSTDIDXENXn4WLHJk%3D&reserved=0)

No data is collected on prescription-only medicines supplied privately for these conditions by community Pharmacists. There are a small number of local [National Health Service](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNational_Health_Service&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lNvnm4VKmt2yLCEyL4evmqNT66wECErRGB%2F0Z5AJQEs%3D&reserved=0) schemes that allow for the supply by community Pharmacists of prescription-only medicines for some of these conditions, but data is not collected centrally.

From early next year, the Pharmacy First service, enabling all community pharmacists to supply prescription-only medicines for the seven common conditions listed, will be nationally commissioned by the [NHS](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=l4uZeDSmZHp0J4pGrpFnjLsP2Tfc2C5b79ta0anr%2FS8%3D&reserved=0).

Community Pharmacies have been able to register to deliver the service since 01 December and more than half have already done so.

To ask the [Secretary of State](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fglossary%2F%3Fgl%3D23&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nR%2BBth0GiIJoUBJK8N9WMUpHnTm3MetBls62aj5B%2Fzo%3D&reserved=0) for Health and Social Care, how many [GP](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FGP&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B9W7aOh4vknemMxyISvLuWuzjCK1vw7RKDit7ix2fI4%3D&reserved=0) practices have signed up to the **General Practice improvement programme** as of 12 December 2023.

[Hansard source](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fquestions-statements.parliament.uk%2Fwritten-questions%2Fdetail%2F2023-12-12%2F6540&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BqYnGAHzlwcEnidXqhti9FQXrA3OFnK3kZCXMYmtgKE%3D&reserved=0)(Citation: HC Deb, 20 December 2023, cW)

[Andrea Leadsom](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D24829&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cArHjtA08tpsK1NueqJLEXQaymiSTDIDXENXn4WLHJk%3D&reserved=0)[The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D24829&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cArHjtA08tpsK1NueqJLEXQaymiSTDIDXENXn4WLHJk%3D&reserved=0)

The General Practice Improvement Programme (GPIP) was introduced as part of the Delivery Plan for Recovering Access to [Primary Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FPrimary_Care&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872649937%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GNHlm2eCV8yQmPETy%2Fya61hlO0%2B2rANGVoGCmutKAjA%3D&reserved=0), published in May 2023. It provides tailored support for Practices and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to make changes and improvements to how they work.

It focuses on helping general practice teams to get patients to the right care from the right person at the right time; improving equity, safety and continuity; and reducing pressure on the workforce.

As of 07 December, more than 1,200 Practices have benefited from the programme.

Registration is currently open for a further two cohorts of support for practices.

[Baroness BullDeputy Chairman of Committees](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fpeer%2F%3Fp%3D25737&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872806109%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8hiJ9bKlwEO89%2FYqCAuIbdN1zVCyTgTQQSySV%2F56ioQ%3D&reserved=0)

My Lords, as more people who are able to are **switching between the**[**National Health Service**](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNational_Health_Service&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872806109%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8dZD5kY7RQD8Ki558yqU%2FU8Fj1B6hfawE1QLEIonDwA%3D&reserved=0)**and private medical care** for specific operations, is the [Minister](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fglossary%2F%3Fgl%3D35&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872806109%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2By93gDTcACFPVQB9e79GmfXBrxSVzC3dRtWN7RSpzM%3D&reserved=0) confident that relevant information is then transferred back to a single patient record?

This will be very important if, for instance, somebody needs emergency care or is involved in an accident. Is the data all being kept in one place?

(Citation: HL Deb, 19 December 2023, c2142)

[Lord MarkhamThe Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fpeer%2F%3Fp%3D26093&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9ef4823b5bea49a9908408dc0215cdf4%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638387539872806109%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=0xjafbCsGMs3OsoeSeU1x2Dd%2Bkb1MKXEZT1e7Fm3fRc%3D&reserved=0)

Patient Records is what the federated data platform is very good at, in terms of drawing data and information from all sorts of sources into one place, so it is always in the ownership of the person, the GP or the individual place.

You can make your data available to the private care providers, if you are having an operation with them, for instance, but the data always remains within the NHS and in the ownership of the person.