ALL SYSTEMS GP

GPs have always been at the forefront of adopting new technology in the NHS. Recent developments in genomics, AI, digital medicine and robotics all present opportunities to potentially revolutionise patient care.

General practice is ready to embrace these opportunities, but needs wider system change to ensure opportunities are adopted safely and sustainably. GPs and their teams must be at the heart of this system change.

General practice needs technology which enables safe patient care fit for the 21st century, makes the lives of GPs and their teams easier, and does not line the pockets of private investors at the expense of the NHS.

That is why we have developed a manifesto to establish how technology can best work for GPs and patients, within a system that is ready to support it.

#AllSystemsGP

The Royal College of General Practitioners is a network of over 53,000 family doctors working to improve care for patients. We work to encourage and maintain the highest standards of general medical practice and act as the voice of GPs on education, training, research and clinical standards.

After consulting extensively with GPs and patients, we believe that for technology to enable the best care for patients, it needs to:

Protect personal data and provide patients with control over who accesses their health record.

Create more time for GPs and their staff, enriching the interactions they have with their patients.

Help tackle health inequalities by addressing the needs of deprived communities and vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion.

Empower patients to better manage their own health and support continuity of care.

Improve care for the one in four people in England living with multiple long term conditions.

Ensure patient safety and provide information which is reliable, sufficiently comprehensive and regularly reviewed by experts.

Engage GPs and GP trainees in the innovation and development process.

Be effectively integrated and scaled up to strengthen the quality and efficiency of NHS services.

Be underpinned by research and robust evidence-based evaluations.

Support GPs and the wider practice team in monitoring population health data to provide more tailored, proactive and preventative care.

GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT FIRST

Urgent investment is needed in practice infrastructure. Every practice must have modern, digitally-enabled premises, with:

Interoperable IT systems, secure broadband, and IT maintenance support

Access to a single, **shared electronic patient record** which documents a patient's interactions across the health system

The NHS is lagging behind health systems in European countries like Estonia and Finland, which are already using a shared electronic patient record.

Just 50%
of GP practice buildings are fit for purpose

Almost 80%
of practices say their premises are not fit for the future

GPs are ready to embrace change, but the IT needs to catch up.

TO ENABLE

Automation of administrative tasks
including scheduling, processing of prescriptions and logging of medical notes

Enhanced diagnostic decision-making
and earlier identification of at-risk patients

Seamless sharing
of patient information between care providers

Delivery of remote care and self-management tools
for patients who are in remote locations, homebound or otherwise unable to visit their GP

PREPARATION OF THE WORKFORCE

It is essential that GPs and their teams are trained and supported to use new technology.

Training programmes should be preparing GPs to engage with emerging technology such as AI diagnostics and data from patient devices.

PATIENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Technology will continue to create new ways for patients to access care and manage their health; but **it is not simply a matter of access**.

Patients will need support navigating new systems, with guidance for using tools such as symptom checkers and self-monitoring devices and knowing when they should consult a GP.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS
Each new implementation should follow an assessment of its impact on a wide range of practices and patients, including those in the most deprived areas.

SAFEGUARDING GPs & PATIENTS
The review and development of regulations and evaluation requirements for healthcare technology should be underpinned by a strong set of ethical principles. Healthcare professionals must be involved in the process, keeping up with the pace of technological change.

SCALING UP & SHARING BEST PRACTICE
Clear mechanisms for scaling up innovative technology and sharing best practice are needed to ensure no one is left behind.

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