

At Inspire Healthcare, like many GP practices across the nation, we are feeling the pressure.

Why is this happening?

Increase in demand and complexity of health needs from patients.

The population continues to grow, medical treatments advance resulting in an aging population and the rising prevalence of chronic diseases all contribute to increase in demand and more complex treatment within primary care services.

General Practice finances.

The unprecedented slowdown in funding and rising demand have made it increasingly difficult for general practice to live within its means. Existing resourcing is no longer adequate to support general practice with below inflation funding coupled with ever smaller proportion of NHS budget.

Workforce shortages.

Shortages of GPs and other healthcare professionals strain the primary care system. This shortage is due to factors such as an aging workforce, workload, burnout, and fewer doctors joining general practice.

Pandemic Effects.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted healthcare systems worldwide. In 2024, residual effects from the pandemic, such as backlogs in care, ongoing strains on healthcare resources, or changes in healthcare-seeking behaviour, continue to affect primary care.

As the pressures on general practice have grown, the experience for patients on occasion has deteriorated. Our teams are working hard to provide the right care for our patients within the constraints we face. Securing the future of general practice cannot be achieved simply through more of the same, even though more investment is needed. It requires a willingness to do things differently building on examples of approaches already in development in several areas:

- Accelerate the use of technologies and ways of working that can help practices deal with growing pressures more effectively, including telephone triage and online triage.
- Encourage the development of the primary care workforce not only using GPs, nurses and pharmacists but also through new roles such as social prescribers, paramedics and first contact practitioners.
- Support patients to use services appropriately through better signposting and also by making it easy for patients to seek advice not only from GPs but from their local pharmacy or opticians which may be more appropriate to their medical needs.

Place general practice at the heart of the NHS transformation plans to ensure that the voice of general practice is heard and acted on in the wider NHS future.

We are very passionate about general practice and the services we provide. However, we are very worried about the current situation and wish we could do more for our patients.

If you feel strongly about the issue of general practice funding, you may wish to contact your local member of parliament to express your views.

We appreciate your support and consideration during these difficult times, and we will continue to do our best to support our patients.

Thank you
GP Partners
Inspire Healthcare