

## The NHS Constitution



The Constitution, along with the Constitution Handbook will help you understand the rights to which patients, public and staff are entitled. It also sets out the pledges which the NHS is committed to achieve together with the responsibilities which the public, patients and staff owe to one another to ensure that the NHS operates fairly and effectively.

All NHS bodies and private and third sector providers supplying NHS services are required by law to take account of this Constitution in their decisions and actions.

Unfortunately, many patients, NHS doctors and NHS staff are unaware of the Constitution and of the rights included within it. More awareness needs to be raised or this document will be deemed worthless.

There is also a Constitution Handbook which explains everything in more detail.

Thyroid UK urges everyone to read the NHS Constitution and discuss aspects of it with your NHS doctors, specialists, nurses and staff, if you think they are not adhering to it in any way.

To read the NHS Constitution (PDF) go to:

[www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_132958.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_132958.pdf)

To see the Interactive version of the NHS Constitution go to:

[www.nhs.uk/choiceintheNHS/Rightsandpledges/NHSConstitution/Documents/nhs-constitution-interactive-version-march-2012.pdf](http://www.nhs.uk/choiceintheNHS/Rightsandpledges/NHSConstitution/Documents/nhs-constitution-interactive-version-march-2012.pdf)

To read the NHS Constitution Handbook go to:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_132960](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132960)