



GP SURVIVAL

Junior Doctors Strike Action commencing 12th January 2016

There is a great deal of confusing information and political spin as to why this has happened. This leaflet explains the real issues behind this industrial action.

The Contract

This dispute is about a **NEW CONTRACT** that the government is threatening to impose on junior doctors in August 2016.

The contract is **not fair for doctors and not safe for patients.**

The contract will redefine the working day, discriminate against those who have performed life-saving research, worked as medical educators, or taken time out to have a family. Most importantly it will **remove vital safeguards** that prevent doctors being overworked. In essence these changes **risk patient safety.**

The British Medical Association (BMA)

The BMA has been involved in these negotiations since 2013. Negotiations stalled as the **Department of Health refused to negotiate on** the vast majority of the contract. Strikes were averted at the end of last year and ACAS was called upon to help resolve the dispute. Unfortunately, NHS Employers have continued to be steadfast on a number of fundamental problems with the new contract, talks have therefore broken down once again.

Who supports the Junior Doctors?

WE DO!

In addition, Jeremy Hunt has received letters from all major Royal Colleges, 1000s of GPs, senior surgeons, cancer doctors and medical schools to name but a few. Many celebrities are also supporting the cause <http://www.medicineforthenhs.com>.

Who voted for Strike action

In the ballot 98% of those who voted were in favour of industrial action. Doctors see this as a last resort. They feel the risk of not striking is greater than the risk to patients if this contract goes ahead.

How will it affect *our* surgery and *our* patients?

Doctors' strikes **don't harm patients.** There may be some inconvenience as routine appointments are re-arranged. We may have a reduced number of routine appointments, as our trainees will be encouraged to join in this important stand for patient safety.

The NHS will, as ever, be operating a 7 day service. We appreciate you continuing to use this precious resource responsibly.

Thank You