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Dear Colleague

Consultation on *The NHS Constitution*

To coincide with the 60th anniversary of the NHS and the publication of the Next Stage review the first written constitution for the NHS has been drafted by patients, the public and staff.

The NHS Constitution sets out seven core principles which aim to empower patients, make decision-making criteria clearer and safeguard the future of the service. The draft constitution proposes a new law to ensure that it is reviewed every ten years with its values reaffirmed every three years. Our own objectives, which can be found on our website www.nyypct.nhs.uk, reflect the principles set out in the constitution.

A national consultation on the *NHS Constitution* is now underway. Locally NHS organisations are being encouraged to ensure there is wide input from the public, stakeholders, patients and staff before *The NHS Constitution* is taken through Parliament, as part of the Health and Social Care Act early in 2009.

The consultation document and supporting information can be accessed through the DH website www.dh.gov.uk/consultations. The consultation runs until 17 October 2008 and if you would like to offer any comments there are a number of ways you can do so. You can provide your comments by email to nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk or, in writing to: NHS Constitution Consultation, Richmond House 611a, London, SW1A 2NS.

Yours sincerely



John Wardle OBE DL
Chairman

