



## **NHS Support Federation**

### **News Release**

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### **Gordon Brown cannot risk imposing Darzi**

NHS staff and patients must be given a genuine choice about the direction of their local services, says the independent pressure group NHS Support Federation.

A storm of controversy will spread over many English towns and cities if ideas like super surgeries are imposed on local people. The plans for services outside of hospitals have not been widely seen by the public, but are already unpopular with doctors. As it is likely that super surgeries - run by the private sector will see many patients lose their local family doctor, the controversy can only grow.

The government must resist using solutions in a one size fits all way, as they will waste public money and not meet people's health needs. They should learn from their experience with private sector treatment centres which were introduced under great pressure from Whitehall to address waiting times. In the end the performance figures showed that it was the NHS that reduced delays and that treatment centres had little effect. Schemes should be piloted more often, providing evidence that they work before they are rolled out nationally.

"It is startling to see that a big part of the NHS Review relies on removing the NHS from the role of providing services outside of hospital. There is little evidence to show that this will work or how it compares with the NHS. We should stop and think as it could threaten the principles and key strengths of the NHS.

"Gordon Brown must accept the right of local people to influence the direction of their health service and to take a different view. After all his own constituents in Scotland live under a health system that rejects many of his own market based solutions for the English health service," says the Federation's director Paul Evans

The NHS Support Federation is launching a campaign to examine plans to outsource GP services to the independent sector to ensure that the law is followed in consulting the public.

The NHS Support Federation is an independent organisation that works to promote a comprehensive NHS, with equitable access and active public involvement. Our supporters and affiliated organisations are drawn equally from the health profession and the general public.

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