



# SAY NO



## TO NHS ENGLAND'S PLAN TO CUT 17 ELECTIVE PROCEDURES AND SLASH £200M SPENDING IN 2018/19

### *What you need to do:*

**1. Get hold of the Consultation Document online at <https://bit.ly/2LNAWJo>**

**2. Respond to the Consultation online at <https://bit.ly/2uNYQOg> and reject the plans to restrict 17 elective treatments (such as Grommets for glue ear in children, Tonsillectomy for recurrent tonsillitis, Carpal tunnel and Dupuytren's contracture release etc), by saying**

No to Questions 3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 **AND:**

6: Don't select Yes OR No, Put "All treatments should be agreed between the patient and their doctor, based on clinical need and authoritative evidence".

8: Put: "The impact would be that patients who can afford it, would go private for operations that the NHS no longer funds. People who can't would be left to suffer."

9: Don't select any option. Put same answer as to question 6.

10: Don't select Yes OR No

11: Put "The e-referral system is already being aligned with the new programme. So why are you pretending to consult on it?"

12: Don't select Yes OR No. Put, "Most practitioners already utilise evidence based guidelines such as NICE in order to make decisions and guide practice."

13: No, Put "I do not agree with your proposals. The current referral process is much better than what you are proposing. It lets GPs refer patients to specialists when they feel they need help in making a diagnosis, or delivering effective treatment. And it allows specialists and patients to discuss the best options for that individual."

15: No, put "Punitive financial measures compromise the relationship between clinicians and patients."

19: No, put "You are turning established guidelines for referral and treatment into mandatory protocols and interfering with the referral process in order to enforce non-payment of elective treatments."

**999 Call for the NHS rejects the need to make these cuts. The government and its quango NHS England are whipping the NHS rug from beneath our feet. Tell them to STOP THE CUTS NOW!**

As hospital beds and services are being axed, NHS England is “consulting” on cuts to 17 elective surgical treatments that it plans to stop funding from April 2019 - except in exceptional circumstances when a patient’s GP has to ask the Clinical Commissioning Group for prior approval or an “individual funding request.”

Their aim is to **cut NHS spending by £200million this financial year**, by:

- Preventing payment to hospitals that give patients these 17 treatments - unless the commissioners have approved specific exceptions in advance.
- Replacing the current referral and decision making process - based on informed, individual discussions between GP, patient and specialist - with a national set of algorithms in a standardised electronic referral system.

This rules out any consideration of patients’ individual circumstances, needs and values. It reduces clinicians to technicians and wastes their hard earned skills and knowledge.

**This is how private health insurance schemes work.**

A comprehensive NHS provides the full range of authorised, appropriate treatments to everyone with a clinical need - it does NOT restrict or deny treatments on the basis of financial considerations.

These 17 treatments are only the first batch of cuts to elective care - NHS England plans to rapidly expand the number of elective treatments it will outlaw.

**NHS England’s spin is that the 17 procedures are ineffective. They are not.**

They are effective for certain patients in certain situations. They should continue to be routinely funded, and clinicians and patients should be trusted to make appropriate decisions, based on existing clinical guidelines, about referral and treatment. Anything else would undermine a core NHS principle - #NHS4All!