Why registering with GP at Hand is disastrous for our NHS

Protest outside GP at Hand’s HQ in Fulham

Meet:
5-7pm
Tuesday 24 July 2018

Where:
Corner of Lillie Road and North End Road
(SW6 1NL)

We will move on to
145 Lillie Road

Nearest tube:
West Kensington
What’s wrong with GP at Hand?

GP at Hand’s adverts promise quick access to a NHS GP via your mobile. Sounds great? **But that’s not the whole story.**

**GP at Hand’s business model is set to undermine NHS general practice.**

GP at Hand is a GP practice, based in Fulham, which is using IT to hoover up NHS patients all round London, using NHS money.

**Your AI can see you now**

GP at Hand replaces your NHS GP with a ‘digital-first’ service – driven by an app that uses an artificial intelligence (AI) symptom checker.

You can contact a GP by video or phone, but you will rarely see one twice, or face-to-face. To do so you would have to travel to their nearest centre. They don’t do home visits either – unless you live in the right area.

NHS England has told Babylon to slow down their roll-out, because doctors are worried about this little-tested service.

**Cherry-picking patients**

GP at Hand seems to be deliberately targeting healthy young people. They won’t take you on if you’re pregnant, frail and elderly, or have a terminal illness.

They don’t want patients with complex mental health problems, drug problems, dementia, a learning disability or safeguarding needs. We think that’s because these patients are expensive.

This service takes money from the NHS, by picking the most profitable patients.

**Draining money from GP surgeries**

Normal GP practices get the same sum of money per year per patient – whether they are healthy or sick. They aren’t allowed to pick and choose.

In practice, 80% of patients are reasonably well. Their funding helps to pay for the 20% who are sick. It’s a system that works, because it’s fair. We all eventually end up in the 20%.

But now that thousands of young Londoners are signing up with GP at Hand, they are taking NHS money away from GP surgeries who need it to take care of the old and sick.

**GP at Hand is particularly bad for Hammersmith & Fulham**

GPs in our area have lost many thousands of patients to the GP at Hand service – destabilising their finances and increasing their admin workloads.

**This as an attack on NHS general practice. We say GP at Hand is NOT WELCOME in West London, or anywhere else.**

**Boycott GP at Hand - Don’t undermine general practice!**

Save Our Hospitals (Charing Cross & Hammersmith)

- Email scxandh@gmail.com
- Blog http://saveourhospitals.blogspot.co.uk/
- Facebook /SaveHospitals
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*With thanks to Tower Hamlets KONP*