**What plans does Labour have for the NHS and new technologies?**

A Labour win at the next election raises the chance of a restored NHS. However, much of Labour's stance on the NHS is discouraging. Here we focus on Labour's plans for our data and new technologies.

Labour has put a revolution in technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the heart of their NHS mission but much of their plan has already been enacted by the current government and some new ideas may be problematic.

**For example, what Labour wants to do is to**
- transform the NHS app to put patients in control of their own health. The app already allows us to see our medical records, book appointments, order prescriptions, see notifications and reminders. Labour wish to
- include 'performance information' on local services, and 'medical guidelines' for treatments. However, presenting the performance of some services briefly and meaningfully may be very difficult, and for some, the choice made may be mainly determined by the length of time they would have to wait. Medical guidelines: are just that 'guidance'; can be difficult to understand when assessment for treatment is complex and with different ways to manage a condition; and services can be so busy/understaffed that there is regular need to triage appointment times.
- 'reform incentive structures to drive innovation and faster regulatory approval for new technology and medicines'. This will require the NHS to work collaboratively with industry, as per the current government's Life Sciences Vision (LSV), which calls for NHS data sharing. Labour makes no mention nor criticism of the existing 'Data sharing Partnerships' in which patient records are shared with private companies in return for 'rewards'.

Labour says they will: ensure a pro-business environment to support innovation and investment; remove planning barriers to build new datacentres; and reform 'incentive structures' to drive innovation and faster regulatory approval for new technology- there is a proposal for the Care Quality Commission to 'ensure regulation involves speedy adoption of new technology'.

**What Labour is NOT saying is that**
- they will protect citizen's rights to know who uses their data and for what purpose, and to be able to withdraw that consent from companies such as Palantir.
- our health data should be used for public benefit and not for private profiteering.
- AI, including for personalised medicine and genomic screening, is potentially hazardous and requires rigorous safeguards.
- heavy dependence on the NHS App will foster inequalities by disenfranchising the less digitally literate and those without IT access.
- without state investment in publicly owned 'cloud' and computing services, the NHS will be permanently dependant on Big Tech companies that will have a stranglehold on costs and the future development of the NHS.
- the use of AI will mean potential bias, including in decisions about which patients and conditions represent the best 'value' in terms of spend.
- algorithms will facilitate the widespread introduction of less qualified staff (such as physician associates) for diagnosis and treatment, with loss of the current skilled workforce and clinical judgement, and increased risks to patient safety.

**What you should demand from Labour**
- Public investment for a publicly owned, national digital infrastructure for the NHS.
- NOT to use algorithms to make clinical decisions about 'value' in relation to patient care.
- Produce detailed plans for the regulation of AI and new technologies based on citizens' rights and the public good, not the interests of commerce.
- Increase protection of patients' data and ban the sale of our secondary data to private companies.