



RCGP

A Prescription for Health

"True excellence is a constant and endless journey, it is not a destination"

RCGP Northern Ireland Policy Recommendations

Infrastructure

RCGP Northern Ireland call for the development of structures that actively involve every GP practice in a real and meaningful way.

‘General practitioners are best placed to ensure patients are treated properly. The effective involvement of GPs at all levels in commissioning and budget holding will be essential if optimum outcomes in terms of quality of service, value for money and patient outcomes are to be achieved.’

Out of Hours services

RCGP Northern Ireland calls for the development of locally responsive services that will command the confidence of the communities which they serve.

‘Such services should involve all stakeholders and develop links with the local health economy while adhering to regional standards for quality and governance. GPs are best placed to ensure patients are treated appropriately by such services and they should be involved in the commissioning of these services.’

Alcohol

RCGP Northern Ireland calls for a review of the price structure of alcohol.

‘Inappropriate and excessive use of alcohol results in significant demands on limited NHS resources. In our view alcohol use should be cost neutral to the NHS. The purchase cost of alcohol should be increased to reflect the NHS cost per unit of alcohol consumed. This is likely to add approximately 5 pence per unit of alcohol to the purchase price and generate £2.7 billion for the NHS.’

Future of General Practice

RCGP Northern Ireland calls on the government to ensure that GPs are adequately resourced so that they can continue to deliver a quality service which offers great value for money but most importantly providing an excellent patient experience for all.

For further details on the RCGP Northern Ireland Prescription for health please visit

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/ni>