The NHS belongs to the people and is founded on a common set of principles and values that bind together the communities and people it serves - patients and public - and the staff who work for it. This is called the NHS Constitution [7].

This page is here to collect best practice and resources to help healthcare staff and organisations better understand the NHS Constitution. If you have something to add, email comms@hee.nhs.uk [8].

What are the NHS Values?

There are six values in the NHS Constitution, and by living these values we can ensure the best possible care for patients:

- Working together for patients [9]
- Respect and dignity [10]
- Commitment to quality of care [11]
- Compassion [12]
- Improving lives [13]
- Everyone counts [14]
Principles that guide the NHS

1. The NHS provides a comprehensive service, available to all

2. Access to NHS services is based on clinical need, not an individual’s ability to pay

3. The NHS aspires to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism

4. The patient will be at the heart of everything the NHS does

5. The NHS works across organisational boundaries

6. The NHS is committed to providing best value for taxpayers’ money

7. The NHS is accountable to the public, communities and patients that it serves

Resources

- HEE has created a series of posters which can be downloaded below. They are in two formats - print-ready [15] or with bleed marks [15] to get printed professionally.
- An NHS Values booklet [15], which helps present the values of the NHS Constitution in an easy to understand format, and linked to the OPCE model to help embed the values within practice.

Do you have a resource to add to the hub? Please contact comms@hee.nhs.uk [8].