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Dear

BMA MP- GP practice visit scheme

NHS general practice is once again the subject of intense debate, with changes and pressures affecting many aspects from out-of-hours care to workload and patient access.

The BMA would like to invite you to spend some time in a local practice to find out first-hand what the reality on the ground is for both patients and GPs in your constituency. We previously ran a GP visit scheme in July 2010 when over 150 MPs took part and we had very positive feedback. If you took part then, we would very much like to arrange a follow-up visit for you.

For those of you who have not taken part previously, the aim of the scheme is to show how general practice works within your community and to consider with you the issues affecting your local GPs. You may also want to use the visit to discuss the key public health issues in your area. During your visit, you will be able to meet other members of the primary care team too, such as practice nurses, practice managers and receptionists.

We hope that the visits provide an opportunity to discuss, not just the current challenges for local health services, but how doctors and politicians can work together to improve health and health care. You may also be interested to learn that the BMA recently launched a new web hub (bma.org.uk/nhschange) where members of the public can find out more about the changes.

If you would like to visit a practice in your constituency, please contact Susan Bahl, Senior Public Affairs Advisor at the BMA, at either sbahl@bma.org.uk or 020 7383 6520.

Yours sincerely,

British Medical Association
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Dr Laurence Buckman
Chair, General Practitioners Committee
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