



# Berkshire

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Berkshire  
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6<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Dear Colleague,

Please find enclosed a localised briefing on the national Any Qualified Provider (AQP) initiative and its local implications.

Patients can already choose which GP to register with and which hospital to go to for tests or treatments. By extending choice of provider into areas where it has not previously been available, patients will be able to choose, where appropriate, from a range of qualified providers and select the one that best meets their needs. Choice of provider is expected to drive up quality, empower patients and enable innovation. There is also evidence that increased choice leads to greater patient satisfaction.

The services chosen for AQP in Berkshire are:

- Adult hearing services in the community (audiology)
- Diagnostic tests closer to home (ultrasound)
- Podiatry services

NHS Berkshire would like feedback from OSCs **by 30 September 2011** on the following questions:

- Do you agree with the selection we have made for services where choice will be extended through Any Qualified Provider (AQP)?
- Are there other services that we should be putting through this process?

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Yours sincerely

Charles Waddicor  
**Chief Executive**  
NHS Berkshire