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## Improving access to general practice: Evening and weekend appointments

NHS Choices is supporting NHS England with its national campaign to ensure that patients are aware of the introduction of more convenient general practice appointments on weekday evenings and weekends.

Last week, we added an indicator to the GP scorecard and the overview section of the practice pages to confirm whether weekday evening or weekend appointments are currently available. This is based on data from those clinical commissioning groups that have received funding to deliver extended access as of September 2017 and data collected through the extended hours bi-annual survey of practices published by NHS England in October 2017, which is completed by practices themselves.

We are writing to you as this information indicates that your practice is providing some appointments during these times. You may be offering this service through the extended hours Directed Enhanced Service (DES) or are part of a local group of practices offering more appointments through an extended access scheme locally. Please contact the [NHS Choices service desk](#) if you are not offering at least one of these appointments per month.

In order to increase patient awareness of these services, we are requesting web editors to supplement the indicator by adding a news story to their practice page to provide further information. You can download a [template news story here](#) and a [graphic](#) that you may wish to use. Alternatively, you can create your own news story – [download the user guide to support this here](#).

We are asking all practices to upload their news items by  
**Thursday December 21 2017**

Thank you in advance for your participation.

## The NHS Choices team

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