

**Why Can't I Get an  
Appointment with  
my GP?**

# Answer 1

**The number of GPs is going down.**

There has been a net reduction of 1,252 full-time equivalent, family doctors in practice between March 2016 and March 2017.

## Answer 2

**The number of patient attendances is going up.**

The average member of the public sees a GP six times a year; double the number of visits from a decade ago

**So Why Don't They Just  
Work Harder and See  
More Patients?**

# Answer 1

## They are!!!

The total number of GP appointments and telephone consultations have increased 7.5% between March 2015 and March 2017....and had already increased by more than 15 % between 2010/11 and 2014/15.

**So Why Don't They  
Just Employ More  
Doctors?**

# Answer 1

## **Despite the Media Headlines, Funding to General Practice is reducing**

Despite providing 90% of all NHS contacts, in 2016/17 General Practice received only 7.23% of the NHS budget and this will drop to 7.1% in 2018/19. In 2004/05 this was 10%.

## **Answer 2**

**And the Number of  
Available GPs is  
Reducing...**



**So What Can I  
Do?**

# Answer 1

**Do not get cross at the practice and its staff! It is very demoralising to try and do your best to manage the increasingly unmanageable demand and have people complain about things that you cannot change.**

## **Answer 2**

**Consider first calling NHS 111 for advice or speaking to the pharmacist about any medication concerns.**

**Did you know you can self refer to physio and counselling – ask at reception for the paperwork!**

## **Answer 3**

**See the professional suggested by the practice. Our nurses, HCAs and receptionists have a wealth of knowledge and will be able to deal with a huge number of issues that do not require a GP appointment.**

# Answer 4

**Do not believe Dr Google! We are getting more and more patients making appointments after scaring themselves by googling their symptoms, worrying about their FitBit levels or reading forums. For health advice use NHS choices (And yes we know some of the information on there is out of date.)**