



The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS)

Membership survey October 2025 Patient Power Payment results

MDDUS conducted a survey of our membership of doctors and dentists in October 2025 to find out more about the issues affecting their practice. Data were collected and analysed by an external researcher, Survation.

The survey contained a section which asked doctors in England about their response to the concept of proposed 'patient power payments'.

The total number of respondents to this section was 1175.

Table_Q17_1. As part of the government's 10-year plan for the NHS in England, 'patient power payments' will be trialled. This will allow patients to decide whether the full payment for their care should be given to the provider or whether a portion should go instead to a regional improvement fund. In your opinion, will giving patients the power to withhold payment improve, worsen, or have no impact on NHS care?

BASE: Medics in England										
		Gender		Age						General Practice role
	Total	Woman	Man	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes
Base(Unweighted)	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
Significantly improve	39	25	14	7	21	6	2	3	0	9
	3%	4%	3%	17%	7%	2%	1%	2%	-	2%
Somewhat improve	136	67	69	18	43	33	17	18	7	27
	12%	10%	14%	44%	14%	10%	7%	9%	11%	7%
No impact either way	145	69	76	5	49	41	25	18	7	44
	12%	10%	16%	12%	16%	13%	10%	9%	11%	11%
Somewhat worsen	321	191	129	8	63	89	85	60	16	89
	27%	28%	26%	20%	21%	28%	34%	30%	25%	23%
Significantly worsen	331	207	122	2	70	89	78	71	21	126
	28%	30%	25%	5%	23%	28%	31%	36%	33%	33%
Don't know	203	124	77	1	56	58	46	30	12	92
	17%	18%	16%	2%	19%	18%	18%	15%	19%	24%
NET: Improve (Significantly+Somewhat)	175	92	83	25	64	39	19	21	7	36
	15%	13%	17%	61%	21%	12%	8%	11%	11%	9%
NET: Worsen (Significantly+Somewhat)	652	398	251	10	133	178	163	131	37	215
	55%	58%	52%	24%	44%	56%	64%	66%	59%	56%
Total	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table_Q17_2. As part of the government's 10-year plan for the NHS in England, 'patient power payments' will be trialled. This will allow patients to decide whether the full payment for their care should be given to the provider or whether a portion should go instead to a regional improvement fund. In your opinion, will giving patients the power to withhold payment improve, worsen, or have no impact on **your morale as a clinician?**

BASE: Medics in England

	Total	Gender		Age						General Practice role
		Woman	Man	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes
Base(Unweighted)	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
Significantly improve	33	21	12	6	19	4	2	2	0	7
	3%	3%	2%	15%	6%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%
Somewhat improve	96	50	46	12	34	28	9	9	4	24
	8%	7%	9%	29%	11%	9%	4%	5%	6%	6%
No impact either way	216	104	111	12	73	47	37	33	14	50
	18%	15%	23%	29%	24%	15%	15%	17%	22%	13%
Somewhat worsen	319	196	122	9	62	88	84	62	14	95
	27%	29%	25%	22%	21%	28%	33%	31%	22%	25%
Significantly worsen	329	195	132	1	60	95	85	68	20	131
	28%	29%	27%	2%	20%	30%	34%	34%	32%	34%
Don't know	182	117	64	1	54	54	36	26	11	80
	15%	17%	13%	2%	18%	17%	14%	13%	17%	21%
NET: Improve (Significantly+Somewhat)	129	71	58	18	53	32	11	11	4	31
	11%	10%	12%	44%	18%	10%	4%	6%	6%	8%
NET: Worsen (Significantly+Somewhat)	648	391	254	10	122	183	169	130	34	226
	55%	57%	52%	24%	40%	58%	67%	65%	54%	58%
Total	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table_Q18_1. What do you see as the main benefit(s) of the policy?										
BASE: Medics in England who think PPP will improve NHS care or their morale										
		Gender		Age						General Practice role
	Total	Woman	Man	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes
Base(Unweighted)	206	109	97	27	82	46	20	23	8	46
Patient empowerment	106	54	52	12	34	27	15	14	4	20
	51%	50%	54%	44%	41%	59%	75%	61%	50%	43%
Increased patient satisfaction	93	50	43	9	40	19	12	11	2	18
	45%	46%	44%	33%	49%	41%	60%	48%	25%	39%
Hospital managers held to account	62	38	24	8	23	11	9	7	4	6
	30%	35%	25%	30%	28%	24%	45%	30%	50%	13%
Incentivises hospitals	66	33	33	6	22	18	8	10	2	11
	32%	30%	34%	22%	27%	39%	40%	43%	25%	24%
Improves public trust in the NHS	97	63	34	16	38	22	11	8	2	21
	47%	58%	35%	59%	46%	48%	55%	35%	25%	46%
Makes patient voice more easily heard	88	49	39	11	32	18	11	12	4	19
	43%	45%	40%	41%	39%	39%	55%	52%	50%	41%
Patient experience should be a key metric for assessing care	90	52	38	8	32	16	15	14	5	18
	44%	48%	39%	30%	39%	35%	75%	61%	63%	39%
Could improve relationship with patients	71	38	33	11	28	11	10	8	3	12
	34%	35%	34%	41%	34%	24%	50%	35%	38%	26%
Other	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
	1%	1%	1%	-	1%	-	-	4%	-	2%
Don't know	9	5	4	1	6	2	0	0	0	2
	4%	5%	4%	4%	7%	4%	-	-	-	4%

Table_Q18_2. What do you see as the main risks of the policy?										
BASE: Medics in England who think PPP will worsen NHS care or their morale										
		Gender		Age						General Practice role
	Total	Woman	Man	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes
Base(Unweighted)	778	471	303	15	166	214	191	149	43	258
Increased defensive medicine and risk avoidance	553	337	213	7	109	160	139	106	32	192
	71%	72%	70%	47%	66%	75%	73%	71%	74%	74%
Weakens professional integrity	425	262	161	6	84	120	116	77	22	158
	55%	56%	53%	40%	51%	56%	61%	52%	51%	61%
Risk of patient bias (e.g. racism, sexism) impacting their rating	472	292	178	10	107	133	117	80	25	155
	61%	62%	59%	67%	64%	62%	61%	54%	58%	60%
Takes funding away from where it's needed	568	349	217	9	127	155	135	113	29	200
	73%	74%	72%	60%	77%	72%	71%	76%	67%	78%
Good care sometimes requires making unpopular decisions	537	329	205	6	111	142	146	108	24	194
	69%	70%	68%	40%	67%	66%	76%	72%	56%	75%
Adverse effect on relationship with patients	495	303	191	7	97	127	130	105	29	172
	64%	64%	63%	47%	58%	59%	68%	70%	67%	67%
Satisfaction' being a subjective metric	549	335	211	11	107	151	146	105	29	197
	71%	71%	70%	73%	64%	71%	76%	70%	67%	76%
Risk of individuals being blamed for wider systemic issues	514	321	190	8	101	150	136	91	28	172
	66%	68%	63%	53%	61%	70%	71%	61%	65%	67%
Other	36	14	21	0	4	7	7	15	3	13
	5%	3%	7%	-	2%	3%	4%	10%	7%	5%
Don't know	10	8	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	1
	1%	2%	1%	7%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0

Table_Q19. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?										
BASE: Medics in England										
		Gender		Age						General Practice role
	Total	Woman	Man	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes
Base(Unweighted)	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
Patients have sufficient knowledge to accurately judge the standard of hospital care	252	140	111	15	85	46	49	41	16	64
	21%	20%	23%	37%	28%	15%	19%	21%	25%	17%
Patients do not have sufficient knowledge to accurately judge the standard of hospital care	784	453	328	24	185	226	175	133	41	281
	67%	66%	67%	59%	61%	72%	69%	67%	65%	73%
Don't know	139	90	48	2	32	44	29	26	6	42
	12%	13%	10%	5%	11%	14%	11%	13%	10%	11%
Total	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table_Q20. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?										
BASE: Medics in England										
		Gender		Age						General Practice role
	Total	Woman	Man	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes
Base(Unweighted)	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
Patient power payments would make me consider reducing my NHS commitments (e.g. fewer sessions, early retirement)	456	265	189	15	108	136	100	77	20	173
	39%	39%	39%	37%	36%	43%	40%	39%	32%	45%
Patient power payments would not make me consider reducing my NHS commitments (e.g. fewer sessions, early retirement)	369	195	174	20	96	88	65	79	21	85
	31%	29%	36%	49%	32%	28%	26%	40%	33%	22%
Don't know	350	223	124	6	98	92	88	44	22	129
	30%	33%	25%	15%	32%	29%	35%	22%	35%	33%
Total	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table_Q21. How likely or unlikely is it that this policy could lead you to practise defensively (e.g. order unnecessary tests, avoid high risk procedures)?										
BASE: Medics in England										
		Gender		Age						General Practice role
	Total	Woman	Man	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Yes
Base(Unweighted)	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
Very likely	289	165	122	9	82	82	59	46	11	114
	25%	24%	25%	22%	27%	26%	23%	23%	17%	29%
Somewhat likely	378	223	154	15	94	109	85	53	22	129
	32%	33%	32%	37%	31%	34%	34%	27%	35%	33%
Neither likely nor unlikely	234	120	113	7	49	58	52	53	15	57
	20%	18%	23%	17%	16%	18%	21%	27%	24%	15%
Somewhat unlikely	74	43	31	3	26	13	16	13	3	23
	6%	6%	6%	7%	9%	4%	6%	7%	5%	6%
Very unlikely	56	33	23	5	16	8	6	16	5	13
	5%	5%	5%	12%	5%	3%	2%	8%	8%	3%
Don't know	144	99	44	2	35	46	35	19	7	51
	12%	14%	9%	5%	12%	15%	14%	10%	11%	13%
NET: Likely (Very+Somewhat)	667	388	276	24	176	191	144	99	33	243
	57%	57%	57%	59%	58%	60%	57%	50%	52%	63%
NET: Unlikely (Very+Somewhat)	130	76	54	8	42	21	22	29	8	36
	11%	11%	11%	20%	14%	7%	9%	15%	13%	9%
Total	1175	683	487	41	302	316	253	200	63	387
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%