



Safe Surgeries Network

Doctors of the World's (DOTW) Safe Surgeries initiative supports GP practices to tackle the barriers to healthcare faced by people in vulnerable circumstances, especially migrants. Through its membership network of over 300 GP practices (and counting), it aims to spread and celebrate good practice in inclusive and welcoming primary healthcare.

DOTW supported over 2,400 patients across our clinical services last year, and over 80% of patients faced barriers accessing to a GP registration and did not have a GP. The primary barriers they experiences were refusals based on lack of documentation and immigration status, both of which represent breaches of NHS England guidelines.

A Safe Surgery can be any GP practice which commits to taking steps to ensure that their services are available to everyone in their community. At a minimum, this means ensuring that lack of ID or proof of address, immigration status or language are not barriers to patient registration.

Member practices receive free resources, training (where available), a regular newsletter with policy updates and good practice tips, links to a national network of practices, and access to expert advice from DOTW for complex entitlement issues.

Signing up is easy, and free. Fill out [this quick form](#) and DOTW will be in touch.

Safe Surgeries Training:

Safe Surgeries training session includes quiz questions and patient case studies to explain healthcare entitlements in primary care and offers take-away resources to support workable good practice for GPs and reception staff.

We will also discuss the support Doctors of the World offer to GP practices through the SafeSurgeries initiative, which aims to support practices to ensure their patient registration policies are inclusive and in line with NHS England guidelines. By joining Safe Surgeries, practices access free training, resources, ongoing support and recognition for the good work all staff do to minimize barriers to healthcare for vulnerable members of the community.

Why safe Surgeries?

Safe Surgeries tend to score highly at **CQC inspection** as Caring and Responsive practices

- The [Safe Surgeries Toolkit](#) is endorsed by the Royal College of General Practitioners (**RCGP**) and the Royal College of Nursing (**RCN**) and the initiative is listed as an evidence-based intervention in the [NHS long-term plan](#) to increase access to care for socially excluded groups
- Safe Surgeries improves reception time management and communication
- Safe Surgeries improves patient experience whilst working within NHSE Registration Guidance

Doctors of the World UK is part of the global Médecins du Monde network, which delivers over 300 projects in more than 70 countries through 3,000 volunteers. We run clinical and advocacy services in the UK, supporting patients to achieve their right to healthcare.