

<p><b>a) That NHS England ensures that are no GP practices which operate a premium rate 08 number in Middlesbrough now or in the future.</b></p>	<p>Prospect Surgery and Village Medical Centre are now operating a geographical number. Whilst the 0844 number is still in operation at Prospect Surgery, patients ringing the 0844 number hear a message which asks patients to hang up and call a geographical number and does not allow the patient to get through to the practice on the 0844 number. The geographical number for both practices is advertised on the practice's website.</p>
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The implementation of the Extended Patient Choice scheme has now been delayed nationally until 5 Jan 15, therefore the information highlighted should now read 5 January 15.

<p><b>e) That people are fully informed when they join a practice which might not be near their home address that they will not be eligible for home visits from a doctor from that surgery due to the distance.</b></p>	<p>Home visits - Currently, if a practice registers a patient then that patient is eligible to receive a home visit. However from <b>01 October 2014</b>, a practice will be able to sign-up to deliver the 'extending patient choice' scheme; this is where the practice will be able to register a patient who does not reside within the practice's boundary, and this would negate the need for the practice to undertake a home visit. For those patients who require a home visit, NHS England will be required to ensure there are services in place. We are currently awaiting national guidance regarding the scheme and we will be able to update the committee further, once information is received.</p>
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