

**Embargo: 00:01, Wednesday 28 May 2008**

**BMA takes out national newspaper advertising as part of Support your Surgery campaign**

Adverts asking the public to support the BMA's campaign to promote general practice have today (Wednesday 28 May, 2008) appeared in six national newspapers<sup>1</sup>. The public is being asked to sign a petition to support NHS general practice which calls on the Department of Health in England to stop promoting the use of commercial companies in general practice<sup>2</sup>. GPs believe this could destabilise smaller, local surgeries.

The BMA has also launched two new podcasts in which Dr Beth McCarron-Nash from the BMA's GP Committee (GPC) talks about why all GPs need to get behind the campaign.

**Note to editors:**

1. National advertisements have been taken out in the Mirror, Daily Mail, Express, Times, Guardian, and Telegraph.
2. The wording of the petition is as follows:

*In the 60th year of NHS general practice, we urge the Government to:*

- *continue to support our existing NHS GP surgeries*
- *and improve services to patients by further investing in existing GP surgeries*

*We urge the Government to halt its plans to promote the use of commercial companies in general practice because this risks destabilising our local surgeries and threatens the comprehensive, high quality care we receive from our GPs. We don't want public funding to move from GP practices to commercial companies who are accountable primarily to shareholders rather than patients. We want to be treated by GPs who see us as patients, not as customers.*

For more information about the campaign and to download visuals please visit:  
<http://www.supportyoursurgery.org.uk/>

The two podcasts are available to view at:

<http://www.bma.public-i.tv/site/player/index.php?a=15298>

<http://www.bma.public-i.tv/site/player/index.php?a=15299>