

# Doctors of the World- GP cards



## Overview

**Reference:** 41

**Location:** National

**Target Group:** Inclusion health populations

**Initiative type:** Outreach

## Contact

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## Top Tip

*Look at who the vaccine is not reaching, address how you support them in getting the vaccine, but also integrate them into the healthcare system at the same time.*

## Why is this important to us?

We'll see anybody who is struggling to access NHS services. Over the last year the big focus of our work has been improving access to COVID services for people with insecure immigration status. We've also been advocating for better access to NHS services for people more generally. It's been short-sighted to think that you can live with parts of the population outside of the healthcare system, COVID has just made that painfully clear to a lot of people. COVID has shifted inclusion healthcare from a personal issue to a public concern.

## What are we doing?

Accessing the vaccine is almost impossible without GP registration and an NHS number. There's a renewed focus on the need to actually get everyone registered with a GP and address the barriers. The cards were launched early this year by NHS England as part of a GP registration campaign. Alongside the cards there is a poster for GP practices and a social media graphic. NHS England then worked with organisations who were working in inclusion health to distribute the cards. We helped to physically get the cards to people, but also with spreading awareness as well. So this information is hosted on our organisation's website. We've done our own promotion to raise awareness of the cards amongst the voluntary sector, with patients and amongst primary care.

## Who is involved?

NHS England were working in collaboration with a consortium of organisations with interests in inclusion health; Doctors of the World, Friends, Family and Travellers, Homeless Link, Stonewall Housing and National Ugly Mugs.

## What works for us?

The cards definitely help with patients building the capacity and ability to advocate for themselves. The cards also help our support workers when they are trying to get a GP practice to register a patient. We're not seeing any decrease in patients coming to us wanting GP registration or finding it easier to register patients with a GP. There's huge benefits in integrating these populations into the healthcare system in the first place, but the fact that it's a two-stage vaccine and likely to need booster vaccines annually makes it even more important. People are then integrated into the national recall methods and can get their second vaccine on time and there's a record of what vaccine they had the first time.