



National Health Service Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 41

PART 1

PROMOTION AND PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICE IN ENGLAND

The Secretary of State and the health service in England

[^{F1} Secretary of State's duty to promote comprehensive health service

- (1) The Secretary of State must continue the promotion in England of a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement—
 - (a) in the physical and mental health of the people of England, and
 - (b) in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of physical and mental illness.
- (2) For that purpose, the Secretary of State must exercise the functions conferred by this Act so as to secure that services are provided in accordance with this Act.
- (3) The Secretary of State retains ministerial responsibility to Parliament for the provision of the health service in England.
- (4) The services provided as part of the health service in England must be free of charge except in so far as the making and recovery of charges is expressly provided for by or under any enactment, whenever passed.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1 substituted (1.10.2012 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\)](#), [ss. 1, 306\(4\)](#); [S.I. 2012/1831](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2013/160](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#) (with [arts. 7-9](#))

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/2015.

Changes to legislation:

National Health Service Act 2006, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.