Background

– The BMA’s Health Policy and Economic Research Unit (HPERU) manages an online panel of approximately 3,000 member doctors.

– The panel is broadly representative of main areas of medical practice and is used for quarterly tracker surveys on topical health questions.

– This analysis is of the one-off questions on the five year forward view included in the April 2015 quarterly tracker survey.
Methodology

– The quarterly tracker survey was sent to a random sample of 1,000 panel members (excluding students and retired members).

– Panel members were emailed a link to the online survey between 15 April and 6 May 2015.

– 502 replies were received, a response rate of 50%. Of these responses, 29 were removed as they were not currently working.

– For a full break-down of the respondents see the BMA quarterly tracker survey (Q2, April 2015)
Familiarity with the five year forward view
How familiar are you with the ‘five year forward view’ publication?

Overall, nearly twice as many respondents were not at all familiar with the five year forward view (62.6%) than were familiar/very familiar with it (32.1%).

Familiarity was highest among GPs (43%) followed by junior doctors (31%), SAS doctors (27%) and then consultants (23%).

* This is not shown on the graph.
Q2 - How familiar are you with the concept of a ‘multispecialty community provider’?

Overall, nearly twice as many respondents were not at all familiar with multispecialty community providers (63.4%) as were familiar/very familiar with them (31.9%).

Familiarity was highest among GPs (43%) followed by SAS doctors (30%), junior doctors (29%) and then consultants (27%).

* This is not shown on the graph.
Q3 - How familiar are you with the concept of a ‘primary and acute care system’?

Overall, familiarity with primary and acute care systems (54.8%) was higher than familiarity with the 5YFV/Q1 (32.1%) and MCPs/Q2 (31.9%).

Familiarity was highest among junior doctors (67%), followed by GPs (61%), consultants (51%) and then SAS doctors (47%).

* This is not shown on the graph.
How familiar are you with the new models of care or ‘vanguard’ programme?

Overall, the majority of respondents were not at all familiar with the vanguard programme (70.2%). Only one in four respondents were familiar/very familiar with it (24.8%).

Familiarity was slightly higher among GPs (31%) than the other main branches of practice.

* This is not shown on the graph.
Interest in local developments
Nearly half of hospital doctors would be interested/very interested to learn more about local GP practices’ proposals to provide more specialist services in the community/primary care setting (48.1%).

Nearly one in five would not be interested/very uninterested (19.5%).

Nearly one in three respondents would be neutral (29.2%).

Question: If local GP practices were interested in providing more specialist services in the community/primary care setting, how interested would you be in learning more about the proposals?
Q5a - What aspects of the proposals would you be most interested in?

The information of most interest to hospital doctors, in order of importance, was:

1. Whether GP practices’ proposals were clinically sound / supported by evidence;
2. Whether they would result in more patient-centred / co-ordinated care;
3. Which services they planned to provide.

This question only applied to respondents who answered ‘interested’ or ‘very interested’ to question 5. Respondents were asked to rank in order of importance the three pieces of information that were of the most interest to them.
Q5b - What is the main reason for your uninterest?

The most common reason given by hospital doctors for uninterest in learning more about local GP practices’ proposals to provide more specialist services was that they wouldn’t affect them (31%).

The next two most common reasons given were that respondents were too busy and didn’t have any influence on the matter (23.8%).

This question only applied to respondents who answered ‘not interested’ or ‘very uninterested’ to question 5.
Q6 - GPs’ interest in local hospitals’ plans to open or run GP practices

Question: If your local hospital was interested in opening or running one or more GP practices, how interested would you be in learning more about the proposals?

Levels of interest among GPs is lower than that among hospital doctors (in relation to Q5) (36.2% vs. 48.1%).

Similar numbers of (GP) respondents would be interested/very interested in learning more (36.2%) as those not interested/very interested (33%) and those who are neutral (29.1%).
Q6a – What aspects of the proposals would you be most interested in?

The information of most interest to GPs, in order of importance, was:

1. Whether local hospitals’ proposals would affect their GP practice;
2. Whether they resulted in more patient-centred / coordinated care;
3. Who would provide the GP service (i.e. skill mix).

This question only applied to respondents who answered ‘interested’ or ‘very interested’ to question 6. Respondents were asked to rank in order of importance the three pieces of information that were of the most interest to them.
Q6b - What is the main reason for your uninterest?

The most common reason given by GPs for uninterest in learning more about local hospitals’ plans to open/run GP practices was that they don’t have any influence on the matter (31%).

The next most common reason given was that respondents were too busy (19%).

This question only applied to respondents who answered ‘not interested’ or ‘very uninterested’ to question 6.
Working for an integrated organisation
Q7 – Interest in working for a single integrated organisation in the future

Less than half of all respondents would be interested/very interested in working for a single, integrated organisation in the future (41.6%). Around a third are neutral (29.2%) and less than a quarter are not interested/very uninterested (23.8%).

Among all respondents, levels of interest were similar regardless of whether the organisation had been led by a hospital (42.3%), GP practices (43.3%) or a CCG (39.1%).

GPs were less interested in the hospital-led option (18.1%) and more interested in the GP practice-led and CCG-led options than all respondents (53.7% and 53.6%). Hospital doctors were more interested in the hospital-led option than all respondents (54.5%).

*This is not shown on the graph.

Question: If your local hospital/GP practices/clinical commissioning group was planning to bring together secondary, community, primary and mental health services into one integrated organisation in the future, how interested would you be in working in that organisation?
Q8 - Does your practice, hospital or other main employing organisation currently work within a network or federated arrangement?

The majority of respondents either do not, or do not know whether they work within a network or federated arrangement (70.3%).

Analysis of GP respondents alone shows 34.9% to be working in a network or federated arrangement across primary care.∗

*This is not shown on the graph.