



## Suspension of one to one care for critically ill covid patients 'direct threat to survival'

09 Nov 2020

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**The only way to fill the NHS jobs black hole is by offering health workers proper pay levels**

GMB, the union for NHS staff, says a decision to suspend one to one care for critically ill Covid-19 patients is a 'direct threat to survival'.

NHS England has decided to temporarily allow nurses to look after two critically ill coronavirus patients in intensive care as hospitals come under intense strain.

**Rachel Harrison, GMB National Officer, said:**

"Suspending one to one care of critically ill Covid-19 patients is a direct threat to survival chances.

"There is no denying there are staffing issues in the NHS - there was a vacancy crisis prior to coronavirus.

"Having fought through the first wave, NHS staff are exhausted, sickness levels have rocketed through stress and huge numbers are self-isolating.

"But cutting corners in intensive care is not the answer.

"To cope with health crises and pandemics we need to fill the NHS jobs black hole – and the only way to do that is by offering health workers proper pay levels."