



## 5 July 1948

Labour's Minister of Health, **Aneurin Bevan**, announced the foundation of the National Health Service (NHS) at a hospital in Manchester.

Seven decades since the NHS was born, we look at some of the underpinning facts and figures behind Britain's healthcare system, the way that things have changed down the years and how we at GS1 UK are supporting this iconic British organisation.



To be financed entirely through taxation, the NHS was to be based on three core principles:



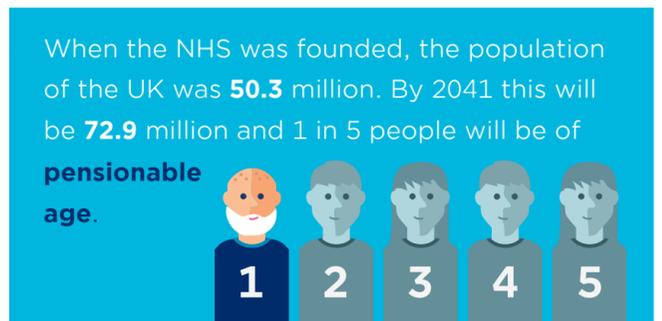
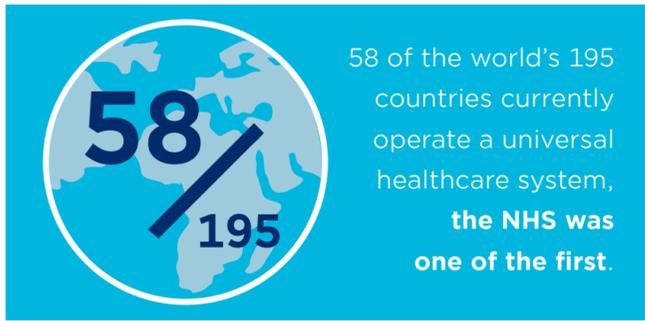
That it meet the needs of **everyone**



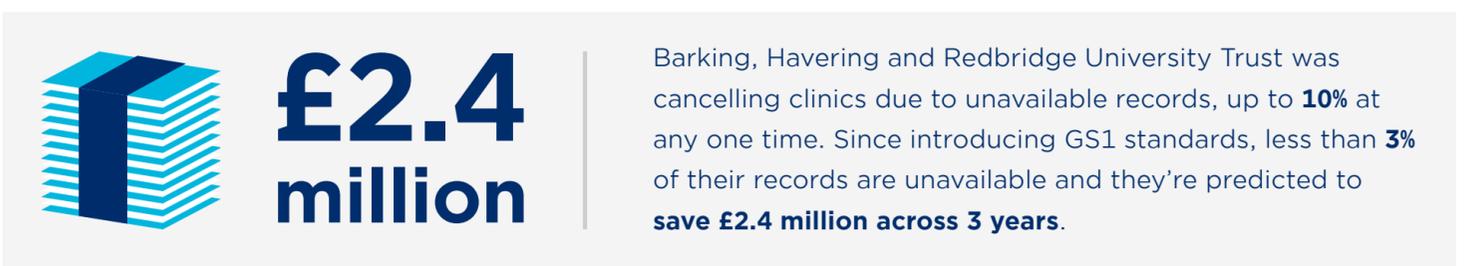
That it be **free** at the point of delivery



that it be based on clinical need, **not ability to pay**



## GS1 UK and The NHS



Since 2009, it has been required that GS1 standards are used on **all patient wristbands** to carry the NHS number.



GS1 standards are the **main identifier** for procedure trays and surgical instrument track and tracing.



GS1 standards deliver an ongoing **annual saving of £2.7m** at Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.



We are supporting **33 Acute Trusts** as part of the [Global Digital Exemplars programmes](#)

