Nurses have pledged to pull together for patients as the NHS braces itself for another series of strikes by junior doctors.

A series of walkouts are scheduled for October to December in England over a controversial new contract.

The government and British Medical Association (BMA) remain at loggerheads over the contract, which the Department for Health says will provide a 7-day NHS.

The BMA suspended action due to take place on September 12-16 to ensure the NHS had the ‘necessary time’ to prepare. The move comes as the General Medical Council warned that patients would suffer because of cancelled operations and lost outpatient appointments.

Complete support
Nurses have told Nursing Standard they will work together for patients while the junior doctors are out on strike.

‘I support the junior doctors 100%,’ Hazel Douglas wrote on Facebook. ‘The staff will cope (as they always do) when the strikes are on. We will pull together and go the extra mile. Remember that our consultant colleagues will be there too.’

Jade Blackburn added: ‘Completely support, the whole NHS is at risk and we have to pull together to save it.’ Nurse Matthew Alders tweeted: ‘We should support junior doctor colleagues. ‘If they are subdued then other healthcare professionals will be next.’

Action timetable
The strikes are scheduled to take place from 8am to 5pm on:

- 5-7 October
- 10-11 October
- 14-18 November
- 5-9 December.

Six strikes have already taken place across England during the lengthy dispute. In May...