

LONDONERS using a new NHS service offering smartphone consultations with a GP are being advised by doctors living miles from the capital, the Standard has learnt.

Babylon Health, the private company running the GP At Hand service, said the majority of its medics worked from home outside London. It added that more than 21,000 patients were now registered to use the service, which launched last November, offering 24/7 video consultations within two hours.

The firm employs more than 50 doctors and claims to be inundated with job-seekers. Babylon chief executive Ali Parsa said: "You could be talking to a GP in Reading or the shires or from south-east England. That allows us to keep our

## The doctor will see you now... from miles away

standards of who we have really high." Patients signing up for GP At Hand are registered at a conventional practice in Fulham. At present, only people living or working in Zones 1-3 can use it and their medical records have to be transferred from their current GP.

The service, which is free, is providing about 2,000 10-minute video consultations a week and about 30 per cent are outside normal GP opening hours.

Ross Lydall



Smart advice: Dr Zahra Damji at the Babylon Health HQ in Fulham

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