



## Welcome

**Welcome to this week's newsletter**

### **[Health Care Supply Association Annual Conference & Exhibition 2008](#)**

#### **6-7 November 2008 - The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield**

The Health Care Supply Association Annual Conference and Exhibition will provide delegates with a unique opportunity to discuss and understand all the latest thinking across the health care sector, particularly in health care purchasing and supply strategy and performance.

This will be the Health Care Supply Association's 38th Annual Conference and, as in previous years, the Association has created a stimulating and topical event designed specifically for purchasing and supply professionals involved in the support of health care. Attendance is open to members and non-members working in the field of purchasing and supply, to other health care professionals and to representatives of companies who supply to the health care sector.

This event will also provide you with an opportunity to network with a highly influential audience of health care procurement personnel from across all areas of the NHS in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, including Procurement Hubs and Confederations, NHS Trusts, PCTs, NHS Supply Chain, NHS PASA, industry and many others.

For more information, or to book your place to attend please click [here](#)

## News

### **Northern Ireland's Health Service is changing for the better**

Improved life expectancy and reduced waiting times for hospital treatments are proof that the health and social care service is making a real difference to people in Northern Ireland. [More...](#)

### **Tackling health inequalities**

Low birthweight, mental wellbeing and premature mortality are among the measures which will be used to assess Scotland's long-term progress in tackling health inequalities. [More...](#)

### **Heart services boost**

A new state-of-the-art facility to help treat heart patients was opened recently after a £900,000 investment at Morriston's cardiac centre. [More...](#)

### **Launch of 'Health is Global: a UK Government strategy'**

A new strategy which sets out the way that the UK Government will work with the World Health Organisation, the EU and a number of other partners to improve the health of the world's population has been launched by Health Secretary Alan Johnson. [More...](#)

### **Hospitals' emergency services maintain good standards**

There has been promising feedback on Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust's emergency services. Hospitals have maintained a good level of performance in a national review of its emergency department - beating over 60 trusts in certain aspects of care. [More...](#)

**News can be read at:** <http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk>

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## **This Week's Reports**

### **[Directions to the Appointments Commission in Relation to the Care Quality Commission 2008](#)**

This document details directions that came into force on 30 September 2008. They give the appointments commission responsibility to carry out the Secretary of State's functions in relation to the appointment of non-executive members of the Care Quality Commission.

### **[Health is Global: A UK Government strategy 2008-13](#)**

This strategy document outlines a set of principles and actions that the UK Government will focus on over the next five years to improve the health of people across the world, including in the UK. It highlights the importance of coherence and consistency in government policy.

### **[Practice-based Commissioning Post-Darzi: Speech by Ben Bradshaw](#)**

This is a transcript of the speech by Health Minister Ben Bradshaw at the NHS Alliance conference on 17 July 2008. He talks about the continuing importance of practice-based commissioning.

### **Reports can be found at:**

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/reports/>

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## **Events**

### **[Perfecting Compliant Evaluation Processes](#)**

#### **16 October - Marriott Maida Vale, London**

Value for money is not about securing the lowest initial price; it is defined as the optimum combination of whole-life costs and quality to meet the user's requirements.

This event will examine the latest legislation and practices to help you deliver value for money through compliant evaluation processes.

This seminar is designed to:

- Give you an understanding of the changing legal obligations pertinent to the evaluation process - from both UK and EU perspectives
- Provide practical assistance drawn from many years' experience of how to carry out effective evaluation processes
- Offer expert advice on how to manage the complete evaluation process, starting with setting the specifications
- Help you minimise your authority's exposure to liability
- Update you on the responsibilities of evaluation personnel and suppliers
- Help you improve control and effectiveness of the evaluation process so you achieve value for money
- Provide practical guidance on current and anticipated developments affecting the evaluation process.
- Get the evaluation process right

The EC Public Procurement Directive 2004/18 and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) make issues surrounding the evaluation process far more transparent to suppliers and other interested parties. Suppliers are now far more likely to question decisions that are taken during the evaluation process, and the introduction of the Alcatel standstill period also increases the potential for suppliers to consider whether or not to challenge decisions.

**This event is a must for all personnel engaged in the evaluation process!**

**Update your diary by visiting**

<http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk/events/index.htm>

## Discussion Forum

Do you have a burning issue or a hot topic that you wish to share with members? Then why not post it on the Discussion Forum in the members area of the website.

**To read the current topics, or to begin your own discussions, visit the Health Care Supply Association Discussion Forum by clicking [here](#)**

Health Care Supply Association [www.healthcaresupply.org.uk](http://www.healthcaresupply.org.uk)  
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