



## Welcome

**Welcome to this week's newsletter**

### **[Government Opportunities \(GO\) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards 2007](#)**

The GO Awards, held in conjunction with National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD), have been well received since their inauguration and have proved to be an accolade worth receiving for all procurement professionals.

**You still have time to enter - submit an entry today!**

**Focus on...**

#### **[GO Sustainability Award](#)**

This Award is open to all UK public sector authorities who have demonstrated an original, innovative approach to sustainable procurement issues which satisfies the demands of current legislation and best practice. Authorities who have delivered quantifiable environmental or social benefits through their procurement activities and who have involved a broad range of stakeholders within their procurement process – for example local communities, interest groups or suppliers – should also consider submitting a nomination for this Award category.

There will be one winner and two highly commended entries in this category. Previous winners include Leeds Metropolitan University and Warwickshire Sustainable Procurement Initiative.

#### **[GO e-Government Award](#)**

This Award is open to all UK public sector authorities who have successfully procured and implemented electronic systems resulting in measurable gains in efficiency and/or cashable savings, along with end-user benefits. All potential nominees should demonstrate an original, innovative approach to procurement issues which satisfies the demands of current legislation and best practice.

Again, for this category there will be one winner and two highly commended entries. Previous winners include the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and Defra.

The deadline for all submissions is **31 March 2007**. For more information on the GO Awards or N3PD 2007 visit [www.n3pd.com](http://www.n3pd.com)

## News

### **Government and pharmaceutical industry promote joint working**

Government and the pharmaceutical industry have joined to launch a strategy that will maintain and strengthen the environment for the industry in the UK while improving health for patients treated in the NHS. [More...](#)

### **Goggin announces £2 million boost for dental practices**

Health Minister Paul Goggin has announced additional funding of £2 million for dental practices. [More...](#)

### **New work programme for NICE announced**

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is being asked to develop technology appraisals on new treatments for breast cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, obesity, and Crohn's disease as part of its 13th work programme. [More...](#)

### **PM hails NHS heart milestones**

Prime Minister Tony Blair has seen for himself how investment in the health service is producing results, during a visit to a London hospital. [More...](#)

### **Wider role for family doctors will keep NHS in good health**

A leading expert on GP services has published a major report emphasising that the best way to improve patient care, increase efficiency and improve value for money is to adopt government reforms moving more care closer to patients' homes - into GPs' surgeries, health centres and community hospitals. [More...](#)

### **NHS Scotland budget allocations**

Funding for NHS Boards will go up by over six per cent next year as NHS Scotland's annual budget reaches more than £10 billion, it has been announced. [More...](#)

### **Health Minister gets view from NHS front line**

New proposals to better engage with NHS staff, empower them to lead reform of the health service and safeguard NHS values have been outlined by Health Minister Andy Burnham. [More...](#)

### **MRSA shows downward trend as trusts share in £50 million government fund**

Welcoming the reduction in MRSA levels, Health Minister Lord Hunt has asked the NHS to work even harder to tackle C. difficile rates and reminded the NHS of the new local target for C. difficile which the Government announced in December 2006. [More...](#)

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

## This Week's Reports

### **[Safer Management of Controlled Drugs: Guidance on Standard Operating Procedures for controlled drugs](#)**

The purpose of this guidance is to promote the safe, secure and effective use of all controlled drugs. Controlled drugs (CDs) are subject to special legislative controls because there is a potential for them to be abused or diverted, causing possible harm. The Government has introduced strengthened measures to make sure controlled drugs are managed safely.

### **[Spotlight on Complaints: A report on second-stage complaints about the NHS in England](#)**

This is the first report of work into reviewing complaints made by patients or their representatives. It covers the first 16,000 requests for independent review received between July 2004 and July 2006 and highlights recurring themes and lessons learnt.

### **[Keeping it Personal: Clinical case for change](#)**

The national director for primary care outlines how services are being reconfigured to meet the needs of patients. GPs and practice staff are increasingly providing specialist services closer to where people live and taking the pressure off the acute sector.

### **[Primary Care Trusts Operational Capital Allocations: 2007-08](#)**

The Department has announced primary care trusts capital allocations of £382 million for 2007-08. NHS trusts will no longer receive capital allocations and will operate under a new borrowing regime similar to foundation trusts.

### **[Consultation on Changing the Age of Sale for Tobacco: Report on consultation](#)**

This document outlines the main points arising from the responses received, and indicates where changes to the original proposals have been made. It also sets out recommendations made by respondents to further measures that might help to reduce smoking among young people.

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

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

## Events

### **[PASS - Delivering Social, Environmental & Sustainable Public Procurement](#)**

Public authorities are under pressure to ensure that their procurement makes a positive contribution towards social inclusion, secures improvements to the environment and minimises any adverse environmental impact.

This event, held on 13 March at the Radisson Marlborough Hotel, London is designed to help all public procurement professionals understand how organisations can take into account social, environmental and sustainability considerations and still deliver value for money while remaining compliant with the EC Public Procurement

Directives.

**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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