



## Welcome

**Welcome to this week's newsletter**

### **Can the NHS Afford to Buy Quality?**

**1-2 November - The Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon**

#### **Early bird offer extended!**

This will be the Association's 37th Annual Conference and Exhibition and, as in previous years, we have 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 healthcare professionals and to representatives of companies who supply to the healthcare sector.

The theme this year is 'Can the NHS Afford to Buy Quality?' and is designed to reflect the increasing pressure on budgets in general and procurement departments in particular in the modern NHS.

The Conference will provide an excellent opportunity to explore key issues, all of which affect the provision and performance of healthcare purchasing and supply services, and, ultimately, patient care.

Once again we have attracted speakers of the highest calibre who will provide delegates with a unique opportunity to understand and discuss the key issues that affect us all.

Each year the high-quality debate on key issues attracts a capacity audience of members, other healthcare professionals and representatives of major supply companies from across the UK, and this year will be no exception. As in previous years, attendees will also be provided, via the Exhibition, with the chance to network with colleagues from across the UK and to meet together in relaxed surroundings.

For more information on the early bird offer or to book your place, please visit [www.hcsaconference.org.uk](http://www.hcsaconference.org.uk)

#### **Membership details - update**

Have you checked your contact details on the Health Care Supply Association website recently? The details of your entry will be used in the forthcoming Annual Procurement Guide. So, even if you haven't changed jobs recently, please take the time to check your entry.

To check and amend your details, click on the 'update your details' link on the members' homepage or click [here](#)

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## News

### **NHS will require substantially higher levels of funding over next 20 years**

The most comprehensive assessment to date of the unprecedented levels of funding invested by the Government in the NHS over the past five years has been published by the King's Fund. [More...](#)

### **Helena Kennedy stands down as chair of Human Genetics Commission**

The Chair of the Human Genetics Commission, Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, has announced that she will be stepping down at the Commission's meeting in Durham on 12 September. [More...](#)

### **Northern Ireland Health Minister sets targets on hospital hygiene and infection rates**

Northern Ireland Health Minister Michael McGimpsey has set targets for the reduction of healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) including MRSA. [More...](#)

### **Scottish Minister launches centre to help cancer patients**

Scottish Government Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Minister for Health and Wellbeing Nicola Sturgeon MSP has officially launched the Friends of the Beatson Centre at the new Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre at Gartnavel Royal Hospital. [More...](#)

### **Raised expectations, dashed hopes for better healthcare**

London Borough of Sutton councillors have reacted with dismay to the NHS announcement that no new general hospital will now be built in the Borough. [More...](#)

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

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## This Week's Reports

### **[Our Future Health Secured? A review of NHS funding and performance](#)**

This report looks at where healthcare money has been spent, what it has achieved, whether government policy has promoted effective use of resources, and what needs to happen next.

### **[Guidance on Non-emergency Patient Transport Services: Response to Consultation](#)**

This gives an analysis of responses to the consultation on revised

eligibility criteria and finance guidance documents for non-emergency patient transport services.

### **Work, Good for your Patient's Health and Wellbeing: Speech by Lord McKenzie**

This is a transcript of the speech by Minister for Health and Work Lord McKenzie at the British Medical Association conference on 5 September 2007. He talks about new evidence that shows that work is beneficial for the physical and mental health of patients.

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

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

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## Events

### **PASS - Delivering Sustainable Public Procurement**

This one-day event, held on 20 September at Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London, will help you understand the viability of environmental issues in contracting.

The event 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 EU Public Procurement Directives.

#### **Delivering compliant 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.

#### **Sustainable procurement is good procurement**

Opting for environmentally sound goods, services and works will help your organisation achieve sustainable development. Increased demand for sustainable goods encourages sustainable production and helps environmentally friendly technologies conquer the market. It can also help save taxpayers' money.

#### **Practising positive social procurement**

Criteria involving social considerations may be used to determine the most economically advantageous tender, where they provide an economic advantage for the authority which is linked to the product or service, and which is the subject of the contract.

## **Integrating social, environmental and sustainability issues into your procurement**

All public authorities should be developing national or regional contracts that ensure social, environmental and sustainability issues are considered from the outset. The Government has raised the profile of sustainable procurement across the public sector with a major shift in the way the public sector buys goods and services, signing up to a range of measures designed to achieve sustainable buying of a wide variety of products.

The new emphasis on environmental standards represents a significant shift in public sector purchasing practice.

While the full benefits of social, environmental and sustainable procurement will not be achieved overnight, this event will help your organisation establish the structures to support and encourage all involved to develop compliant practices.

### **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)  
Members Area - Hosts Access to CPV Codes Online, Members Directory, Members Discussion Forum, World-wide Procurement Links & Contract Search Services, as well as E-tendering and Electronic Supplier List Facilities, for further information on these services please visit <http://www.bipsolutions.com/Delta/delta.html>

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This e-Newsletter is produced by BiP Solutions Ltd, Park House, 300 Glasgow Road, Shawfield, Glasgow G73 1SQ. Tel: 0141 332 8247. Email: [bip@bipsolutions.com](mailto:bip@bipsolutions.com).

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