



Welcome

Welcome to this week's newsletter

A note from the Executive Director

Yesterday I visited our media partner, BiP Solutions, in Glasgow to discuss, with our Chairman and another council member, items such as the Annual Conference and the website.

I flew to Glasgow on a well known 'budget' airline (£1.54 outbound, £21.54 inbound, you know the sort) and due to there being 1mm of snow at the airport, we were delayed flying up. There was no snow in Glasgow and so I expected the return flight in the evening to be trouble-free – how wrong can you be!

Departure time came and went with no explanation, and eventually an announcement was made stating the following: "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We apologise for the late departure of your flight but we are having problems with the aircraft. We are unable to adjust the trim, which means it will be difficult to maintain the balance in flight. However, we have come up with an innovative solution. We will have free seating on the plane, that is, you will not have allocated seats, but we would like all the female passengers to sit at the front of the plane. All male passengers should sit at the back of the plane."

Amid incredulous gasps we all duly boarded and were further informed in the plane that "We're not used to carrying so many male passengers, so the plane is too heavy. We'll now have to wait while the Captain revs the engines to burn off excess fuel in order for us to take off."

I got back OK!

As bizarre excuses go, this one pretty much takes the prize, and I'm thinking of passing it on to National Rail. Let me know if you've heard any great excuses, and any good ones can be included in the next newsletter for others to share!

Now, some dates for your diary:

- The Annual Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon on 1 and 2 November.
- The Summer School will be held at the University of

Birmingham between 19 and 24 August.

More details will be issued shortly, but both of these events are sure to be popular, so you are advised to book early!

John Smith
Executive Director

News

Government and industry act to reduce impact of medicine shortages

Government and the pharmaceutical industry joined forces to tackle medicine supply problems experienced in England. [More...](#)

Fighting NHS fraud saves £811 million

Work to tackle fraud in the NHS has saved enough money since 1998 to pay for 53,000 kidney transplants or 35,000 nurses for a year. [More...](#)

Flu vaccine uptake in Scotland

Flu vaccine uptake amongst Scotland's older people is heading towards the 70 per cent national target, but eligible people should keep coming forward for their free flu vaccination, Chief Medical Officer Harry Burns has said. [More...](#)

Minister announces improvement to patients' access to medicines

New guidance for extending prescribing by nurses and pharmacists in the Health Service will increase patients' access to medicines. [More...](#)

Patient confidentiality guidance for e-health information

Issues around e-health information and patient confidentiality are covered in two new online publications from the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). [More...](#)

Health Minister launches consultation on expanding Hospital Travel Cost Scheme

Health Minister Andy Burnham has announced a consultation to invite views on the Hospital Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS), following a commitment to expand the scheme to cover referrals by healthcare professionals in a primary care setting. [More...](#)

NHS Lothian chalks up waiting times success

NHS Lothian hit a key Scottish Executive target on waiting times a full year early, despite a record workload. [More...](#)

Employers urged to improve mental health at work to save millions

The Government is calling on employers in the West Midlands to improve the way they handle mental health in the workplace. Local businesses are estimated to lose more than £556 million every year because of mental health problems at work. [More...](#)

Patricia Hewitt announces new choice website

Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt has announced two measures to give patients more choice and control over their health care. [More...](#)

Multimillion-pound social enterprise fund unveiled

A £73 million funding boost for social enterprise has been announced by Health Minister Ivan Lewis. [More...](#)

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

This Week's Reports

[Data Protection and Sharing: Guidance for emergency planners and responders](#)

This guidance, issued by the Cabinet Office, is designed to inform Category 1 and 2 responders and other responders (such as those in the voluntary sector) on the key issues relating to data protection and sharing in emergency planning, response and recovery. The guidance should be used in conjunction with the non-statutory Emergency Response and Recovery and statutory Emergency Preparedness guidance. These guidance documents are available on www.ukresilience.info.

[Adult Protection, Care Reviews and Independent Mental Capacity Advocates: Guidance on interpreting the regulations extending the IMCA role](#)

The Mental Capacity Act regulations extend the powers of local authorities (LAs) and the NHS to instruct independent mental capacity advocates (IMCAs) in certain cases of accommodation reviews and adult protection cases. LAs and the NHS have a duty to decide in which cases IMCAs would most benefit their clients. The most effective way to do this is for LAs and the NHS to prepare local guidance for their staff, to assist them in identifying those who would most benefit. It would be unlawful not to consider the exercise of these powers to instruct IMCAs for accommodation reviews and adult protection where the qualifying criteria are met.

[NHS Health Direct: Early Adopter programme - Further guidance for strategic health authorities and primary care trusts](#)

The Department of Health and NHS Direct are seeking a local health community (primary care trust) to act as the Early Adopter for NHS Health Direct to provide multimedia advice supporting personal health improvement. The Early Adopter will be launched by October 2007 and evaluated to inform the national roll-out of NHS Health Direct in 2008.

[Adults' Personal Social Services Allocation 2006-07 and 2007-08: The Commission for Social Care Inspection Reimbursement Grant](#)

The purpose of this circular is to provide information on the administration of the 2006-07 and 2007-08 Commission for Social Care Inspection Reimbursement Grant in respect of councils with social services responsibility.

[NHS Trusts: Adopting good practices](#)

This is a case study on how Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

has embraced best practice and reached financial close on one of the UK's largest Private Finance Initiative schemes in record time.

Reports can be found at:

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

Events

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

Calling all healthcare professionals

The GO Awards celebrate the success of individuals and teams working within procurement in both the public and private sectors. Last year the quantity and quality of entries to the Awards marked a significant step forward, which is thanks to the excellent work that you carry out on a daily basis. Ensure that you or your organisation get the recognition you deserve, and submit a nomination today!

Categories available are:

- GO Lifetime Achievement Award
- GO Individual Award
- GO Team Excellence Award
- GO Sustainability Award
- GO eGovernment Award
- GO Best Service Award (private sector award)
- GO Young Procurement Professional Award
- GO Best Small Supplier Innovation Award (private sector award)

For more information on the Awards or how to nominate, click <http://www.n3pd.com>

Deadline for entries is: 31 March 2007

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
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>

We welcome your feedback, comments or suggestions for topics to be addressed, these should be emailed to media@bipsolutions.com This email (and any attachment) is intended only for the attention of the addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return email. This email (whether you are the sender or the recipient) may be monitored, recorded and retained by BiP Solutions Ltd. Email monitoring/blocking software may be used, and email content may be read at any time. You have a responsibility to ensure laws are not broken when composing or forwarding emails and their contents.

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