



Welcome

Welcome to this week's newsletter

Can the NHS Afford to Buy Quality?

Early Bird offer extended!

This will be the Association's 37th Annual Conference 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 health care professionals and to representatives of companies who supply to the health care 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 health care 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 health care 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

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](#).

News

Consultation on protecting patient confidentiality launched

A consultation has been launched on a code of practice designed to help health care staff make the right decisions about protecting and disclosing patient information. [More...](#)

Department of Health invests £5 million in pioneering haematology unit

Patients with leukaemia, myeloma and other blood disorders are set to benefit from a £5 million investment that will expand the haematology unit at Southampton General Hospital. [More...](#)

Wise words on health

Welsh scientists are at the forefront of an attempt to encourage people to increase their intake of omega-3 fatty acids. [More...](#)

NHS waiting times figures published

The NHS is on track to meet new waiting times targets for heart patients, latest figures show. [More...](#)

RCN announces appointment of new Director for Human Resources

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is pleased to announce the appointment of David Cooper as Director for Human Resources. [More...](#)

University Hospitals for Coventry & Warwickshire NHS on track to achieve £30 million savings but final phase will involve job cuts

University Hospitals for Coventry & Warwickshire NHS bosses have expressed their regret at having to consider cutting 200 managerial, corporate and administrative jobs by March 2008 in order to achieve a tough £30 million financial recovery plan and secure the future of safe, affordable hospital services. [More...](#)

Web tool launched to improve life expectancy in disadvantaged areas

Minister of State for Public Health Dawn Primarolo has launched the Health Inequalities Intervention Tool - an interactive website to help local health services and councils improve life expectancy in areas with the worst health and deprivation. [More...](#)

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

This Week's Reports

[Rituximab for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis:](#)

Guidance

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has issued this guidance recommending Rituximab as a possible treatment for adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis, when given together with Methotrexate. It has also published information about understanding the guidance for patients, carers and the public.

National Capabilities Survey 2008

The National Capabilities Survey (NCS) is the biennial survey of current capabilities of resilience to disruptive events, including terrorist-related incidents, accidents, natural hazards and infectious disease outbreaks. This letter gives early warning of the 2008 survey together with further background. It also gives an update of the work being undertaken across government as a result of the last survey.

Tackling Health Inequalities: Launch of the health inequalities intervention tool for spearhead areas

This letter announces the launch of the health inequalities intervention tool. It is designed to aid spearhead primary care trusts and partner local authorities in ensuring that local planning and commissioning will narrow local inequalities, in support of Local Delivery Plans and Local Area Agreements.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis: Diagnosis and management - Guidance

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has issued this guidance on the care of people with chronic fatigue syndrome, which is also called myalgic encephalomyelitis (or encephalopathy), in the NHS in England and Wales. A booklet about the guidance has been written for people with the condition and their parents or carers. It may also be useful for other family members or for anyone with an interest in the condition.

Reports can be found at:

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

Events

PASS - Delivering Sustainable Public Procurement

This one-day event, held on 13 September at Holiday Inn City Centre, Birmingham, 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
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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