



NHS eProcurement Strategy

Update

Revised supplier self-declaration process

Following feedback received from the market, and to reflect growing supplier engagement with the requirements set out in the NHS eProcurement Strategy (Scan4Safety), the Department of Health (DH) is amending the periods in which medical and in-vitro diagnostic device suppliers to the NHS can complete the "Compliance Self Declaration Questionnaire for Medical and In-Vitro Diagnostic Device Suppliers".

Until now, this questionnaire has been available for completion every six months, and has been open for the months of April and October each year. This has provided opportunities for suppliers working to the relevant compliance timeline to state compliance against the required milestones, which frequently require actions by the end of the preceding months of March and September.

To enable suppliers to update their compliance status on a continuing basis, and to enable DH to have an improved view of industry compliance status, the questionnaire will remain open continuously from February 2018. This will provide suppliers with the opportunity to notify their progress as compliance with the milestones is achieved, rather than having to wait until the next time the questionnaire is open. Reporting of results will be undertaken quarterly beginning April 2018 and will be communicated via the Scan4Safety website.

The current compliance status of medical and in-vitro diagnostic device companies is shown in Table 1. The estimated proportion of NHS medical and in-vitro diagnostic device expenditure has risen significantly as larger companies have declared compliance.

Table 1: Compliance status of medical and in-vitro diagnostic device companies

	September 2016	March 2017	September 2017
Number of suppliers compliant with requirements	79	66	74
Estimated proportion of NHS medical and in-vitro device expenditure	9%	23%	29%

Clarification on compliance dates

There has been some uncertainty from industry regarding the management of inventory in relation to DH compliance dates. The following statement should clarify this position:

*Compliance requirements will be met if all applicable devices and medicines meet the requirements of the published sector-specific timelines from the **date of manufacture**. Any product that has a date of manufacture that exceeds DH compliance dates and is not in compliance with the requirements set out in the timeline will be non-compliant. Existing inventory manufactured prior to DH timelines can be consumed after the date required in the compliance timeline.*

This clarification is provided on the understanding that manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors should not stockpile product to deliberately delay compliance.

An updated Supplier Compliance Timeline for medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic devices will be issued shortly to update links and explanatory notes. It will not alter the dates in the timeline.

NHS eProcurement Strategy implementation

DH is leading implementation activity to support the technology elements of the NHS eProcurement Strategy in relation to:

- a pilot to implement the use of GS1 Global Data Synchronisation Network to support Master Data Exchange in healthcare;
- coordination of market activity to drive faster growth of the PEPOL network in healthcare.

Information on this implementation activity has been published in the DH eXchange Library, providing background to the work, the strategic approach and progress to date. It is important for suppliers to participate in the self-declaration process and to keep abreast of the milestones required by the sector-specific timelines.

Demonstration of Technology – price exchange

DH intends to run a Demonstration of Technology (DoT) exercise in early 2018. Initially, this DoT will set out to assess whether the PEPOL network can be used for the secure and confidential transmission of price data from suppliers to NHS trusts. Other transport methodologies will be assessed if required. A report will be produced at the end of the exercise detailing the findings and setting out next steps.

PEPPOL implementation by NHS Supply Chain

To clarify market uncertainty, DH expects that suppliers trading with NHS Supply Chain should receive purchase orders and send invoices over the PEPPOL network. NHS Supply Chain has selected a PEPPOL Access Point provider and as such can send and receive business messages to any other PEPPOL Access Point over the PEPPOL network. Please note suppliers are free to use any PEPPOL Access Point of their choosing when trading with NHS Supply Chain or any other NHS organisation.

For more information, please contact Steve.Moore@supplychain.nhs.uk.