NHS Supply Chain

NHS Supply Chain National Advisory Board - Key Messages
July 2026

NHS Supply Chain programmes are progressing well, but communication is key

- Members recognised strong progress across transformation programmes.
- Members felt the system would benefit from more regular reminders of the positive impact, improvements and value already being delivered through these programmes, helping to build awareness and confidence in the support available.
- Better communication is seen as critical to building confidence, engagement and understanding of the benefits realised to date, as well as the opportunities ahead.

Clinical engagement is becoming more embedded

- The new National Clinical Commercial Advisory Group was welcomed.
- Members reinforced that clinicians should be involved throughout programme design, not just at implementation.
- Stronger links between national clinical groups and local systems remain a priority.

Supply resilience remains a major focus

- Recent supply disruptions highlighted the need to better understand clinically critical products and supplier dependencies.
- Work is continuing on product segmentation, resilience assessment and lessons learned to strengthen future resilience.

Consistent adoption of the NHS Savings Methodology remains a challenge

- The methodology itself is well understood, but organisations continue to interpret it differently.
- Members want greater consistency, moving beyond a narrow focus on cash-releasing savings.
- Regional forums will help encourage adoption by identifying systems that are not adopting the national methodology so this can be raised, understood and discussed, with clear consideration of next steps and support required.

Customer engagement is central to NHS Supply Chain Modernisation

- The Customer Design Board has been established with representation from every region.
- Stakeholder engagement will increase during the next phase.
- Workforce pressures may limit secondment opportunities, so alternative approaches to regional representation may be needed.

National Price Simplification is supported but recognised as complex

- Members supported the ambition of a “one product, one price” model.
- There was strong emphasis on implementing the programme carefully, with clear communications, realistic timescales and a phased roadmap.
- Maintaining social value objectives and SME participation alongside national pricing was identified as an important consideration.