

Key Messages Midlands Regional Advisory Forum – September 2026

NHS Supply Chain Commercial Update

NHS Supply Chain provided an update on commercial transformation activities, supply resilience and market pressures. Discussion focused on recent glove pricing changes, with reassurance that decisions were made to protect continuity of supply during a period of market uncertainty and potential disruption.

An update was also provided on the IV Cannula framework. NHS Supply Chain confirmed the procurement process had been conducted in line with procurement regulations and highlighted the support available to organisations as they transition to alternative products where required.

NHS Supply Chain Modernisation

The Modernisation Programme team provided an update on progress and highlighted the role customers continue to play in shaping future supply chain services through the Customer Design Board.

Members welcomed the commitment to using established forums to gather feedback and stressed the importance of demonstrating how customer input influences programme decisions. The programme team confirmed its focus on strengthening engagement and maintaining a clear feedback loop throughout the transformation journey.

Partnership Metrics Dashboard

An update was provided on the development of a new Partnership Metrics Dashboard, designed to provide greater visibility of performance across a range of measures including service, savings, stock availability and customer experience.

The dashboard will allow customers to view information at national, regional and organisational level and is intended to support data-driven conversations between NHS Supply Chain and customers.

Clinical Product Segmentation

NHS Supply Chain shared progress on the development of a clinical product segmentation framework, aimed at improving understanding of clinically critical products and strengthening supply chain resilience.

The approach will help identify products that are most critical to patient care, support proactive risk management and improve preparedness for future supply disruptions. Members welcomed the work and highlighted the importance of continued clinical engagement as the framework develops.

Development of a Midlands Category Board

Members were updated on proposals to establish regional category management arrangements (a Midlands Category Board), initially focusing on Trauma & Orthopaedics, Cardiology and Diagnostics. The aim is to bring organisations together to aggregate demand, increase volume commitments and secure improved value across the region.

Members welcomed the proposed development, recognising the potential to strengthen regional collaboration, accelerate savings opportunities and support more consistent procurement approaches across Midlands organisations.