

NHS Supply Chain National Advisory Board - Key Messages

- Members welcomed progress in clinical engagement and increasing clinical representation across NHS Supply Chain activities, whilst recognising there is still further work required to ensure category and clinical teams work effectively together and that engagement reaches the right audiences.
- Discussion focused on recent commercial challenges, including the IV Cannula Framework. Members sought further assurance around governance, decision-making processes, risk assessment and clinical assurance arrangements for significant category decisions.
- There was a wider discussion around balancing cost, resilience and supply continuity, with members highlighting the need for greater alignment between NHS Supply Chain and the wider NHS on risk appetite, stakeholder engagement and communication of key decisions.
- Whilst members of the Regional Advisory Forums recognised improvements and a willingness to respond to feedback, ongoing concerns were raised around savings methodology communications, the timeliness of analysis, and the speed at which information is shared with customers.
- The Board discussed the importance of maintaining focus on lessons learned from previous supply disruptions and ensuring that this work continues to receive appropriate attention and momentum.
- The Modernisation Programme remains supported by members; however, discussion identified opportunities to improve reporting, information flow and transparency around decisions, rationale and timescales.
- The Partnership Metrics Dashboard received strong support, with members recognising its potential to improve visibility of performance, support benchmarking, and drive greater consistency and accountability across the system