

Frequently Asked Questions - NHS Core List

Following the launch of the NHS Core List, what support will be in place for trusts?

We will have hypercare in place, where we will be closely monitoring each product and the service level we are delivering. We will have a dedicated team in place for any immediate support you may require. Please contact your NHS Supply Chain ICS Manager or email NHSCoreList@supplychain.nhs.uk.

We do not currently purchase these products from NHS Supply Chain, can we obtain samples?

Samples should not be required as the first phase of the NHS Core List does not require product switching.

How will the Online Catalogue show these NHS Core List products?

You will be able to easily identify the products within the 'Brand Field' on our catalogue.

We have direct arrangements in place with a few suppliers, for some of the products on the NHS Core List, what will happen here?

We will work this through with the trust and the supplier on a case-by-case basis, to understand the reasons for an alternative route. However, we are not asking trusts and suppliers to prematurely end a contract arrangement that is in place, simply switch over to the NHS Supply Chain when your contract comes to an end.

Some of the products we normally use are not on the NHS Core List, and are delivered via eDirect, what do we do?

The products on the first phase are all stocked, nine products which were previously available via eDirect, have been moved to our stocked route. For any products you currently order via eDirect that are not on the NHS Core List, you should continue to order as normal. If any of those products has an alternative NHS Core List product, please switch to that product as soon as you are able to.

What are the benefits of using Core List products for NHS trusts and clinicians?

Benefits include reduced variation in clinical practice, improved patient safety, lower procurement costs, simplified inventory management, and increased supply chain resilience. Clinicians also benefit from familiarity and standardisation of products.

Is use of NHS Core List products mandatory for NHS trusts?

Implementation of a new NHS Core List of products is one of the 'How we Work' interventions which form part of the Strategic Framework for NHS Commercial aimed at achieving high levels of compliance, cost-containment and supply resilience.

What is the criteria for selection of NHS Core List products?

Products will be selected based on the system needs through a formal evaluation process involving clinical assessment, procurement review, and commercial analysis. The overarching principle is to deliver value to the NHS through a rationalised range of products, removing unwarranted variation, whilst supporting Patient Care.

Does the NHS Core List tie in with the National Pricing Matrix?

This will be decided on a category by category basis dependant on what is right for that market.

Where does Value Based Procurement (VBP) fit in, and the resilience of supply chain?

Resilience is a key principle of NHS Core List. VBP opportunities will be reviewed on a category by category basis dependant on market dynamics. The key focus for NHS Core List is to deliver a range of best value products to enable Patient Care.

How does NHS Core List support the NHS' Sustainability agenda?

As part of the focus to deliver best value products to the NHS, sustainability is a key criteria. As more sustainable products are developed, we will endeavour to include them onto NHS Core List (as part of a rationalised range that meets all other criteria).

How will you ensure the resilience of the supply chain for the NHS Core List products?

We are taking a very comprehensive approach to NHS Core List with regards to resilience. Assured supply is a key priority. We are working closely with suppliers to understand their supply chain in detail and agree forecast demand and supply, identifying and addressing risks, identifying alternative products and bringing products into stock with increased stock coverage.

Our Inventory Management team is operating a hypercare process to ensure there is little risk to supply for NHS Core List products. We will not include any products with existing resilience risks onto NHS Core List.

How does the NHS Core List support cost savings, standardisation, and patient safety?

By consolidating demand and reducing product variation, the Core List enables bulk purchasing, better pricing, and consistent clinical outcomes. Standardisation reduces training requirements and errors, ensuring patient safety and regulatory compliance. NHS Core List aims to offer best value to the NHS, streamlining procurement and supply through a single national partner.

How are products selected and approved for inclusion on the NHS Core List?

Products are selected through a formal evaluation process involving clinical assessment, procurement review, and commercial analysis.

In the coming weeks, we will stand up a Core List Customer Working Group, which will include regional representation of procurement and clinical partners who will be responsible for co-creating the pipeline of future products.

How often is the NHS Core List reviewed or updated?

NHS Core List will be rolled out in phases to enable learnings to be adopted throughout the lifetime of the programme. In the coming weeks, we will stand up a Core List Customer Working Group, which will include regional representation of procurement and clinical partners who will be responsible for co-creating the pipeline of future products.

What are the future plans for NHS Core List?

The long term aim for NHS Core List is for it to be scaled to include as many categories and products as appropriate. It will be rolled out in phases to enable learnings to be adopted throughout the lifetime of the programme. Establishing a foundation of resilience and reassurance in quality, building confidence in the programme and taking the NHS on the journey with us.

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