

Key Messages Midlands Regional Advisory Forum – March 2025

National Board Follow Up

- NHS leadership change: Sir Jim appointed as interim Chief Executive.
- NHS facing a highly challenging planning round; real-term funding cut by 1.5%.
- Midlands region has a £1bn+ deficit, requiring closer collaboration with NHS Supply Chain.
- Major NHS changes expected in the next 12 months, including service consolidation.
- Procurement and supply chain efficiency remain key priorities.

Key Points

- NHS Core List: Progressing with senior advisory groups; awaiting NHSE approval (post-April).
- Internal Reporting Challenges and the draft savings figures require validation.
- Net savings remain a challenge, price increases impact targets.
- Concerns over direct sourcing and fragmented market pricing.
- NHS Supply Chain urged to take a more proactive and strategic approach.

Regional Update – Midlands

- £8m annual savings achieved; £10m in projects planned for 2025-26.
- Escalation needed for outstanding projects awaiting approval.
- Focus on Value Based Procurement (VBP) to drive cashable savings.
- Need for clearer financial impact reporting and advocacy-driven approach.

Resilience Update

Key Learnings from GOJO Disruption:

- Supply Chain Design: Monopoly risks identified due to dispenser dependency.
- Internal Process: Financial health monitoring improvements implemented.
- Regulatory Landscape: Challenges in stakeholder engagement persist.

NHS Supply Chain have Committed To:

- Incident Management: New NHSE-aligned process launched.
- Capability Development: Training programme for rapid response in place.
- Communications: New crisis comms strategy under development.
- Risk Management: Stronger risk capture and mitigation efforts.
- Financial Health Monitoring: Weekly reviews now standard.
- Category Strategy: Exploring supplier flexibility options.

Inventory Management System (IMS) Update

- IMS & Point of Care (PoC) rolling out across 19 trusts with NHSE funding.
- Current Status: 8 trusts live, all 19 expected live by November.
- Key Financial Benefits:
 - £1.9M in expired stock identified.
 - £1.5M in overstock managed.
 - 366 clinical hours saved annually.

National Equipment Tracking and Inventory System (NETIS)

Overview and Key Requests:

- National system consolidating datasets for better asset visibility.
- Seeking trust CEO support and data-sharing agreements.
- Help raise awareness of NETIS.
- Sign data-sharing agreements.
- Provide feedback on implementation concerns.
- NETIS expected to improve data quality.
- Phased approach planned for spotting underutilised assets.