

NHS Supply Chain National Clinical Advisory Forum - Key Messages

June 2025

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1. Inventory Management Systems (IMS) Deliver Significant Clinical and Financial Gains
 - There's a clear national push to embed robust IMS to improve patient safety, reduce stock waste, and free up valuable clinical time.
 - Effective stock management is no longer just operational, it directly safeguards patients and cuts costs.
2. Move Towards More Digital-First Procurement, but Governance Must Catch Up
 - Rapid growth in healthcare software, wearables, and AI-enhanced/integral medical devices means NHS Trust procurement teams need NHS Supply Chain product frameworks that can handle digital health tools, which many current frameworks don't cover well.
 - There's an ongoing conversation about aligning digital safety, interoperability, and procurement processes, to avoid fragmented, duplicate local buys and to ensure products genuinely add value.
 - Clinical and clinical procurement expertise must influence digital adoption, ensuring robust evaluation, governance, and patient safety.
3. Financial Pressures Drive Focus on Value-Based, Sustainable Procurement
 - There's a clear imperative: health care professionals to work collaboratively with procurement teams at regional/ICS level to introduce changes to clinical pathways through the adoption of innovative, sustainable medical devices that improve patient outcomes while maximising return on spend.