



PRESS RELEASE

ABHI welcomes NHS England's consultation on managing conflicts of interest in the NHS

20th September 2016 – The Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI), welcomes NHS England's consultation on managing conflicts of interest in the NHS.

Trust and transparency are essential elements of the relationship between industry and healthcare professionals. This relationship allows us to develop new treatments, save and enhance the lives of patients and improve the efficiency of the NHS. This is why ABHI has a robust code of conduct which is mandatory for its 250 company members and their staff.

The ABHI Code embodies the philosophy and principles that must govern business decisions when interacting with healthcare professionals. The Code goes beyond conditions required by law and is visible evidence of alignment in the requirements of ethical behaviour between the public and health system and industry.

Through our involvement in the “Task and Finish Group” led by Sir Malcolm Grant we have formally contributed to this work. At NHSE's March board meeting, Simon Stevens publicly welcomed ABHI's work to date on these issues. We will continue to work with NHS England as it implements recommendations from the consultation.

The ABHI Code has also been endorsed by the national network of Academic Health Science Networks. They recognise that it is an exemplary model, and adhering to it places industry on a solid platform to interact with the NHS.

Peter Ellingworth, ABHI's Chief Executive said: “It is essential that industry works to the highest levels of ethical behaviour and transparency. A robust code of conduct enables companies and individuals to make the right business decisions to support patients and the NHS. The medical technology industry is a diverse one. We are working towards the industry adopting a single code for the sector that is recognised by the health system and universally adopted by all medical technology companies.”

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About ABHI

The Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI) is the industry association for the medical technology sector in the UK. ABHI's mission is to champion the benefits and use of safe and effective medical technologies to deliver high quality patient outcomes. With over 250 members, ABHI leads the advocacy of the industry in order to advance access to medical technology. Our membership includes some of the leading multinational businesses in the sector in the UK right the way through to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

For further information, visit the ABHI website: www.abhi.org.uk

For further information on the ABHI code of practice visit www.abhicodeofpractice.org.uk

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