



25 Years Advancing
Access to Medical
Technology

Manifesto for Medical Technology – 2015

Making the UK the World's Most
Life Sciences Friendly Country



Introduction

The Medical Technology industry makes a vital contribution to economic growth in our country. The industry employs 76,000 people in over 3000 companies, mostly small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Many companies are working closely with Universities and research institutions. The industry is worth some £17 billion and has achieved growth of greater than 6% in recent years. Our country also has the most highly regarded universal healthcare system in the world, the NHS. The NHS, in turn, is highly dependent on technology produced by the industry to enhance the efficiency of services and to drive continuous improvement in their delivery.

The NHS faces ever increasing demands at a time when the country needs to contain public spending. The imperative for the NHS to do more for less is well recognised. Medical technology is part of the solution. Our manifesto sets out how Government can widen patient access to the latest technologies and treatments, create efficiency savings for the NHS and grow the industry to generate wealth for our country.

To make this happen, we need Government to champion the industry and look for action in four distinct areas.

1

A single system for the nurturing and spread of innovation

2

Rigorous application of evidence to reduce variation in health outcomes

3

Breaking down budgetary barriers to service change

4

Support to grow competitive companies through the right economic initiatives and development of skills

Actions by Government and the NHS

1 A single system for the nurturing and spread of innovation

Top-down, centralised control over the uptake of innovation and spread of best practice is not the way ahead. There have been numerous organisations involved in this process, leading to a cluttered and confusing innovation landscape. ABHI recommends:

- NHS England must define a single process for the dissemination of successful innovation.
- The newly-created Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) must play a central role in bringing in innovative technologies. They must be given the funding, including multiyear settlements, space and certainty to grow working relationships that connect the NHS, industry and academic institutions. The route map for this process should be clearly signposted and recognise that it is normal and appropriate for health systems to seek innovation in this way. Any such process does not obviate the need for appropriate levels of evidence nor should it replicate the work of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).
- The Government should also sponsor a Plagiarism Award – a prize for the timely and successful implementation of ideas borrowed from elsewhere.

2 Rigorous application of evidence to reduce variation in health outcomes

The NHS Outcomes Framework provides excellent yardsticks for patient experience and outcomes. For many conditions, the evidence to determine the right treatments is well-established. ABHI recommends:

- Diversity of patient outcomes should be measured against use of this evidence and unacceptable variation in outcomes should be targeted for reduction.
- Information on patient outcomes should be presented in a way that is both accessible and understandable to all. This will be one of the most important applications for ‘big data’ and should include metrics on local NHS performance against other regions or providers, as well as international benchmarking.
- The NHS Innovation Scorecard, showing how innovative treatments and technologies have been applied, should be expanded to include all relevant NICE guidance and the implementation of other proven technologies.
- The NHS inspection regime should address the uptake of innovation as part of its routine assessments.
- There should be structural linkages between the key elements of the adoption and diffusion process: assessment, coding, tariff, commissioning policies, procurement and measurement.

Actions by Government and the NHS

3 Breaking down budgetary barriers to service change

These barriers are significant and persistent. Budgetary silos between different NHS organisations frequently mean that the benefits of investing in new approaches in one place can only be realised in another. This lack of joined up, system-wide budgeting means that many desirable service changes simply do not happen. Furthermore, annual budgeting cycles with the need for in-year savings are an active disincentive to invest in technologies that may yield longer term rewards. ABHI recommends:

- The limitations of the existing financial arrangements must be acknowledged. Changes must include payment system reform, the use of transitional funds and multiyear settlements for all NHS organisations.
- The National Tariff Payment System must have a faster (e.g. bi-annual) update cycle to enable the timely adoption of innovation and encourage disinvestment in treatments no longer regarded as best practice.
- Commissioning and provider incentives should be aligned and should link to the uptake of proven innovations.
- NICE's remit should be broadened to cover all public spending impacts, not only those in the NHS.

4 Support to grow competitive companies through the right economic initiatives and development of skills

The UK is home to some of the world's largest life science companies and a vibrant ecosystem of SMEs which thrives on exports. There is huge potential for economic growth in the medical device industry, both through international investment and the development of smaller, indigenous companies. ABHI recommends:

- There must be firm, continued support for investment, alignment with schemes for funding and tax relief and continued growth in the export agenda for the sector.
- The direction of travel towards a 20% level of corporation tax and relief on energy taxation should be continued, as should commitment to the R&D tax credit and patent box initiatives.
- The government should retain its significant role in promoting careers in science, technology, engineering and manufacturing and its focus on apprenticeships and other training schemes.

Our Commitment

Industry will support this process by responding to the local health and care needs identified, for example by AHSNs, developing appropriate technologies and generating supporting evidence. Furthermore, through secondments and training, industry can help develop innovation leadership in the NHS, whilst promoting the country as a world leading location for research, development and investment. Our industry will continue to provide many thousands of skilled jobs. It will continue to provide technologies that help deliver high quality outcomes to patients, support the health system to deliver cost effective care and improve the wealth of our nation.



About ABHI

ABHI

Advancing Access
to Medical Technology

Vision

To lead the advocacy
of the UK medical
technology industry

Mission

To champion the
benefits and use of
safe and effective
medical technologies
to deliver high quality
patient outcomes

“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 240 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).”

Switchboard

+44 (0) 20 7960 4360

Membership

Angela Jeffery

Membership Development Manager

+44 (0) 20 7960 4364

Events

Liz Carrington

Manager, Events

+44 (0) 20 7960 4380

International Exhibitions

Sarah Izon

Exhibitions Executive

+44 (0) 20 7960 4376

www.abhi.org.uk

Association of British Healthcare Industries

250 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8RD

T 020 7960 4360
F 020 7960 4361

enquiries@abhi.org.uk