



ABHI statement in response to final Carter Review of NHS Operational Efficiency

05 February 2016 - ABHI welcomes Lord Carter's report on NHS Operational Efficiency. It is bold in its breadth and vision.

We are pleased to see reference to our work with the Carter team on quantifying the benefits of medical technology, and look forward to its incorporation into the development of the 'Model Hospital'.

We believe that a stronger case should have been made for the role of technology in driving the efficiencies the NHS seeks. Medical technology already exists to support many of the required improvements in quality, productivity and efficiency described in the report. ABHI and its 250 members are eager to expedite these opportunities.

We are disappointed with the section on procurement, which is at odds with the broad objectives of the report. The focus on transactional arrangements and short-term savings runs counter to the stated aim of delivering efficient care. A procurement strategy focused solely on price will not deliver long-term sustainable levels of efficiency, and risks souring relationships with industry that are championed elsewhere.

Unlocking efficiency relies on joint working between the NHS and its partners. Partnership must be based on mutual trust and respect. ABHI members, from large corporations to small start ups, support the delivery of high quality patient care in every part of the NHS. Lord Carter's report offers the opportunity to enhance these relationships and ensure that the quality and efficiencies that are attainable are realised.

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ABHI's Chief Executive, Peter Ellingworth, said:

“The Carter Review cannot afford to be another missed opportunity to promote innovation and encourage long-term partnerships between the medical technology industry and the NHS. These relationships have the potential to deliver vastly improved patient outcomes and efficiency.

“We acknowledge the need for the NHS to make the best possible use of tax payer's money, this is achieved when procurement considers broader value aspects and not solely price. We urge the Government to re-affirm its support for our industry, recognising its role in supporting the NHS in service transformation and its economic contribution to UK plc.”

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

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