

Maintain the critical benefits of the single market for the medical technology sector

The ability of British companies to compete on equal terms must be protected.

The Government and NHS need to:

1. Maintain unified regulatory arrangements, notably those that govern medical devices. Regulatory divergence will mean extra bureaucracy and cost, and, in some cases, prevent patient access to the latest treatments.
2. Maintaining free market arrangements will also help British companies retain and recruit talent and keep Britain attractive to investors.

Prioritise, protect and promote the medical technology industry

With fast, practical measures from the UK government, the NHS can be a health and wealth-creator for a Britain operating outside the European Union.

The Government and NHS need to:

1. Switch to a long-term, value-based approach, and away from short-term, price-focused NHS procurement initiatives which risk shrinking the industry. The prioritised, appropriate use of innovative medical technologies delivers system efficiency as well as improved patient outcomes.
2. Expedite the publication of the Accelerated Access Review and ensure that it promotes a more collaborative relationship between industry and the health system. The 15 Academic Health Science Networks have a crucial role to play in this.
3. The financial freedoms created by “Brexit” should be used to ensure that spending on health and care matches the levels seen in comparable countries.

Protect smaller companies in the immediate and medium term with policies that reduce the cost of business.

SMEs face a triple whammy - uncertainty that is damaging business opportunities and investment, a weakened currency that adds cost-inflation and an increasingly aggressive NHS procurement environment that aims to reduce the number of suppliers. This situation endangers innovation and impacts the development of UK companies.

The Government and NHS need to:

1. Offset the immediate impact of uncertainty by allowing NHS contracts to be renegotiated.
2. Reduce business rates and abolish other tax burdens either recently imposed or planned, such as fees from the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency.
3. Take account of SMEs’ unique contribution to the NHS by using the metrics applied in other sectors that support small company growth.