

## Liberating the NHS:

# Transparency in outcomes - a framework for the NHS

## A consultation on proposals

For the last 10 years, our doctors and nurses have been forced to meet government targets that often did little to improve patients' health. We want to free the NHS to work towards what really matters to patients and clinicians – what actually happens to the patient's health as a result of the treatment and care they receive. We want to create an NHS that is transparent about the outcomes it is achieving for patients.

### What will the NHS Outcomes Framework do?

- It will help patients, the public and Parliament understand how well the NHS overall is doing in terms of improving the health outcomes of the patients it treats and cares for.
- It will allow the Secretary of State for Health to hold a new NHS Commissioning Board to account for the outcomes it is securing for patients. This new Board will be independent of the Government and responsible for allocating a budget of approximately £80bn to groups of GPs who will then purchase healthcare services to meet the needs of their local populations
- Through greater transparency, it will help drive improvements in what actually happens to patients' health as a result of the treatment and care they receive – patients' health outcomes.

### What will be included in the NHS Outcomes Framework?

The proposed NHS Outcomes Framework is structured around five high level outcome domains. These are intended to cover everything the NHS is there to do. These five outcome domains are

- Preventing people from dying prematurely
  - Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions
  - Helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury
  - Ensuring people have a positive experience of care
  - Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm
- EFFECTIVENESS**
- PATIENT EXPERIENCE**
- SAFETY**

Each of these five areas would have:

- An **overarching outcome indicator** (or set of indicators) to measure the overall progress of the NHS across the breadth of activity covered by the domain
- A small number of **specific improvement areas** where the evidence suggests better outcomes are possible or areas that are identified as being particularly important to patients
- **Supporting Quality Standards** developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to help patients, clinicians and commissioners understand how to deliver better care.

The NHS Outcomes Framework will be based on the following principles:

- **Accountability and transparency**
- **Balanced** – Outcomes will be chosen to look across the whole NHS
- **Internationally Comparable** – So that the NHS can be compared against other countries
- **Focussed on what matters to patients and clinicians**
- **Promoting excellence and equality**
- **Focussed on outcomes that the NHS can influence but working in partnership with other public services where required** – The NHS Outcomes Framework should explain where public health interventions and or social care services are also responsible for an outcome
- **Evolving over time** – The NHS Outcomes Framework will be based on what we can measure now, but will be updated in coming years

### Why are we consulting on this?

We need your help in developing this national Outcomes Framework for the NHS. We need to know about what matters to you to ensure the NHS Outcomes Framework is as good as it can be. The consultation document can be viewed and downloaded at [www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS](http://www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS)

### How to get involved?

You can respond to this consultation by:

- coming along to one of our regional events for NHS staff and patients which will be held across the country, details of which will be posted on the DH website shortly; or
- responding to the questions in this document by completing a template which can be downloaded from our website at [www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS](http://www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingtheNHS) and returning it to us by 11 October 2010 via
  - *email:* [nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nhswhitepaper@dh.gsi.gov.uk)
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