

BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

Title:

Managing conflicts of interest: Refresh of the statutory guidance for CCGs

Lead Director:

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Purpose of Paper:

To provide assurance to the Board of proposed amendments to the CCG statutory guidance on managing conflicts of interest to bring it fully in line with the new cross-system guidance on managing conflicts of interest in the NHS. They are few in number and minor in nature.

The Board is invited to:

Approve the revised statutory guidance on managing conflicts of interest for CCGs

Managing conflicts of interest: Refresh of the statutory guidance for CCGs

1. The Board approved new guidance on managing conflicts of interest in the NHS in February 2017. This is applicable to all NHS organisations from June 2017. Prior to this, we had already introduced robust conflicts of interest safeguards for CCGs through the revised *statutory guidance on managing conflicts of interest guidance for CCGs*, which was published in June 2016.
2. Whilst there is strong alignment between the NHS and CCG conflicts of interest guidance, we have identified a few areas where we need to make small refinements to the CCG Guidance to ensure it is fully aligned and consistent:
 - **Registers of interest:** We have updated the guidance to require that CCGs have systems in place to satisfy themselves as a minimum on an annual (rather than six-monthly) basis that their registers of interest are accurate and up-to-date, and to require that only decision-making staff are included on the published register.
 - **Gifts from suppliers or contractors:** We have advised that gifts of low value (up to £6), such as promotional items, can be accepted. Previously this was prohibited.
 - **Gifts from other sources:** We have amended the thresholds to advise that gifts of under £50 (rather than £10) can be accepted from non-suppliers and non-contractors, and do not need to be declared; and that gifts with a value of over £50 can now be accepted on behalf of an organisation, but not in a personal capacity.
 - **Hospitality - meals and refreshments:** We have amended the thresholds to advise that hospitality under £25 does not need to be declared. We will state that hospitality between £25 and £75 can be accepted, but must be declared, and confirm that hospitality over £75 should be refused unless senior approval is given.
3. These amendments have already been publicly consulted upon for the NHS Guidance and therefore do not require further consultation. We have also discussed the proposed changes with NHS Clinical Commissioners.
4. The refresh of the CCG Guidance has also provided an opportunity to provide further advice to CCGs on managing conflicts of interest in the commissioning of new care models, as requested by the Board in May 2016. We have included a new annex in the CCG guidance on identifying, declaring and managing interests in this area of commissioning.
5. The Board is invited to approve the revised *statutory guidance on managing conflicts of interest for CCGs*, which will be published along with an updated suite of documents to support with implementation e.g., templates, case studies and summary guides.

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Date: May 2017