

Intellect Healthcare Programme Overview

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Healthcare Programme Mission

- To develop the UK's capability to support a strong and growing information and technology industry operating in the health and social care sector
- To work with policy makers, decision makers and practitioners to facilitate the delivery of improved health and high quality care for all enabled by information and technology
- To provide a collective voice for over 260 member companies operating in the health and social care sector to maintain the industry's reputation and champion its strategic importance to our stakeholders
- To use our expertise and knowledge to provide the highest quality of service and intelligence to our members in the health and social care sector, helping them to make the right business decisions to drive growth and profitability

The healthcare programme encompasses the entire healthcare technology market, including an elected Health & Social Care Council, which brings focus to Intellect's healthcare policy and programme of activities.

In 2011 we held 20+ briefing sessions for members with over 1,300 members attending and over 60 speakers, our industry papers have been downloaded over 6,000 times, and we have promoted the use of technology in healthcare in over 70 media appearances – including 7 feature articles in health profession magazines.

Programme priorities

1. Creating a vibrant healthcare IT market for all

On 22 September the Department of Health announced it would work in a new partnership with Intellect to create a more vibrant and healthy market for health IT. We have now drafted a plan of initiatives - looking at removing barriers to market entry, improving and adopting standards and information sharing, and practical implementation of the forthcoming NHS Information Strategy.

The NHS Information Strategy

The NHS Information Strategy will set the direction of travel for how information is used in the NHS moving forward. Intellect is working on behalf of industry to ensure industry views are included and will continue working with DH and the NHS on implementing the strategy.

We have also worked with the DHID Technology Office contributing to the development of a NHS Technology Strategy (which will sit under the Information Strategy to help NHS and industry moving in the right direction).

Information Sharing and Governance

Intellect have hosted discussions with suppliers, the DH, the Information Commissioner's Office, RCP, RCGP, the Information Centre, and the NIGB and NHS representatives to look at removing barriers to information flow in the new NHS. We will continue this work under the new partnership.

Standards, interoperability and accreditation

Intellect is working with the Technology Office (the Interoperability Toolkit team) on standards and interoperability in the NHS. We have developed an industry position paper on interoperability in the NHS. Moving forward we will work closely to ensure the NHS and industry agree standards that help facilitate a vibrant market rather than hampering the market.

Procurement

Intellect and DH recognise that procurement is often cited as an issue for suppliers – particularly for SMEs seeking to bring innovative new solutions to the market. We agree that current arrangements are sub-optimal. We will look at what can be done to unblock current issues in the NHS market, drawing on work done in the Cabinet Office to streamline procurement. We will also use Intellect as a market information intermediary to bring the suppliers and customers closer together.

Innovation

Intellect submitted an industry response to the NHS Chief Executive Innovation Review calling for a focus on transformation of processes and care pathways enabled by ICT rather than traditional focus

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on medical devices and drugs. We are working with the DH innovation team to ensure our industry's views are filtered through and taken onboard in the NHS.

Informed customer

With the move towards local decision making, the NHS needs to have the capability and capacity to manage risk and define the right outcomes from technology and information services. We recognise that NHS management and clinicians need help to develop sufficient confidence in the benefits of IT solutions to be able to invest in them safely and wisely, such that they deliver true and lasting business benefit. The IT industry has a wealth of experience and expertise to share and Intellect are working to channel this knowledge to the NHS together with DH and the NHS Informatics community.

2. Policy and Strategy work

Intellect's Healthcare Council has identified topics to develop some key industry positions on. Intellect members are encouraged to get involved and lead these by contacting the team.

1. Value of information technology in health and social care

Demonstrating how information technology can deliver the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) agenda.

2. Commissioning IT toolbox

Providing emerging commissioning organisations with a view on what we believe their toolbox of information technologies should look like to get the job done.

3. Patient empowerment

Looking at how information technology can empower patients to be in control, better informed and take better care of themselves.

4. Integrating the new NHS

Integration is vital for a sustainable NHS. We will look at how information flow, management and collaboration can be enabled through information technology solutions in the reformed NHS.

3. NHS Reforms updates

We have run (and will continue to run) a programme of briefings and workshops to give members updates on the changes to the NHS proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill currently in Parliament, including:

- Remit of the NHS Commissioning Board and GP Consortia
- Intelligence needs and information flow requirements for Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Delivering the £20bn efficiency savings in the NHS by 2016 – opportunity for technology to improve productivity and efficiency
- Health and Wellbeing Boards: new responsibilities to drive integrated health and social care and public health at the local government level.
- Patient perspective of information access and empowerment

4. Telehealth and mobile health

Intellect is a founding member of the 3million lives telehealth campaign and is investing resources on behalf its members to ensure industry views are represented and we drive the development of a new market for telehealth in England. We lead on work commercial models, governance, standards, and integration.

As the NHS looks to achieve efficiency and productivity gains Intellect is working with DH and the NHS on identifying ways telehealth and mobile solutions can help improve services and make frontline staff more flexible.

5. Clinical Safety

Intellect is working jointly with UK regulator (MHRA) and the EU Commission on Software as a Medical Device regulation issues and globally on the development of software as a medical device standards. We are also looking at safety issues regarding the convergence of devices and IT in healthcare. We hold annual symposiums bringing together UK and EU regulators, notified bodies, stakeholders and suppliers to discuss standards and regulation issue and take forward recommendations and influence development at UK and EU level.