



At their board meeting yesterday NHS England discussed and agreed significant new steps to manage conflicts of interest (COI) and implement “sunshine rules”.

Simon Stevens publicly welcomed the work already undertaken on these issues by ABHI and ABPI.

NHS England aim to address three areas:

1. Strengthening the management of COI within Clinical Commissioning Groups
2. Developing rules to ensure hospitals, clinicians, and procurement staff are free from unmanaged conflicts of interest, particularly in respect of drugs and devices
3. Updating NHS England’s internal COI policy to bring in line with best practice elsewhere

Full details can be found within the [board paper](#).

ABHI has a robust code of conduct which is mandatory for its members. The code provides rules to govern interactions between industry and health care professionals (HCPs) and goes beyond legal compliance, requiring adherence to higher standards.

In welcoming the work already undertaken Simon Stevens also recognised there was more to do. The ABHI code will be further strengthened by the end of the year. There will be key changes to create further separation and transparency in grants provided from industry to HCPs or healthcare organisations. This will produce one of the most modern and progressive code of conduct for the medical technology sector.

We welcome NHS England's recognition of our work to date and look forward to working with them as we move forward. Our aim is to create a single code for the medical technology industry sector that is recognised by the health system and universally adopted by all medical technology companies.

Phil Kennedy, ABHI Chairman said “We call on the NHS to ensure it only contracts with those companies who comply with a robust code of conduct.”

The ABHI code is [endorsed by the AHSN network](#) as an exemplary model. ABHI and the AHSNs are working together to promote ethical working practices through wider use of the code within the health system and by further adoption across industry including non ABHI members.

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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 <http://www.abhi.org.uk/>

For further information on the ABHI code of practice visit <http://www.abhicodeofpractice.org.uk/>