

## The Medical Technology Group – Statement on the NHS Operating Framework

“Hospitals could be punished for meeting patients’ needs, which may well undermine patients’ access to care” says the Medical Technology Group (MTG) in response to yesterday’s NHS Operating Framework which formalises the reduction in the standard tariff for some procedures. Emergency procedures above a predetermined baseline will attract only 30% of the tariff price and from 2011 the tariff will become the maximum price paid for a procedure, rather than the standard charge.

The Operating Framework highlights the scale of the challenge for NHS commissioners as they head closer to the financial squeeze in 2010 and beyond. We need a smarter approach to NHS spending if patients are to continue to benefit from the highest quality services. Innovative medical technologies, supported by well designed services and forward looking clinicians, have to be part of the solution.

Technologies which patients value such as advanced wound dressings, minimally invasive joint replacement techniques and remote monitoring devices are ready and waiting but too often they are not being used as a way of improving patient outcomes. Often British patients miss out on technologies available in the rest of Europe, or even elsewhere in the UK, because PCTs do not fund their use.

Short term commissioning, which looks only at technologies’ upfront price, is an inefficient use of NHS resources. Technologies can result in significant long term savings, for example by requiring shorter operating times or allowing patients to leave hospital earlier, which outweigh the technologies’ initial cost.

Barbara Harpham, Chairman of the MTG said: “Let’s start working together - the MTG, NHS commissioners, clinicians and patients to drive the uptake of the medical technologies - available now – straightaway.”

### Notes

- For interviews with MTG members or patients, please contact [hmarwood@webershandwick.com](mailto:hmarwood@webershandwick.com) / 020 7076 0424
- The Medical Technology Group is the UK’s largest coalition of patient groups, research charities and medical device manufacturers working together to improve access to medical technologies for everyone who needs them.
- **MTG Members:** ABHI • AdvaMed • AMO • AntiCoagulation Europe • Arrhythmia Alliance • Arthritis Care • Atrial Fibrillation Association • BD • Bladder and Bowel Foundation • Boston Scientific • British Cardiac Patients Association • C R Bard • Cardiomyopathy Association • Convatec • Eucomed • FABLE • FEmISA • Heart Research UK • ICD Group • INPUT • International Alliance of Patients' Organizations • IST Information and Support • Johnson & Johnson • Lindsay Leg Club • Medtronic • National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society • Pelvic Pain Support Network • Roche Diagnostics • SADS UK • St Jude Medical • STARS • Stryker • The Circulation Foundation • The Patients Association • Transplant Support Network • Zimmer