

<p><b>TO:</b> All Chief Executives in NHS Trusts in England, All Chief Executives in Primary Care Trusts in England, All Chief Executives in NHS Foundation Trusts in England, All Chief Executives in Strategic Health Authorities in England,</p> <p><b>CC:</b> All Chairs in NHS Trusts in England, All Chairs in Primary Care Trusts in England, All Chairs in NHS Foundation Trusts in England, All Chairs in Strategic Health Authorities in England Directors of Performance in Strategic Health Authorities in England Directors of Finance in Strategic Health Authorities in England Monitor</p>	<p>Richmond House 79 Whitehall London SW1A 2NS Tel: 020 7210 5142 Fax: 020 7210 5409 <a href="mailto:david.nicholson@dh.gsi.gov.uk">david.nicholson@dh.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
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21 June 2010

Gateway reference: 14374

Dear colleague,

### **Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11**

The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11 set out the challenge facing the NHS over the coming year. While many of these challenges remain, the political landscape has changed and this Government has communicated clear objectives and ambitions for the NHS to deliver, and we must now respond.

A revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11 has been published today, setting out changes which need to happen this financial year and those areas where change can be expected in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011/12.

The revision to the NHS Operating Framework for 2010/11 is available at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_110107](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_110107). This document should be read as an addendum to the NHS Operating Framework published in December 2009 and also available on the above link.

The document centres on five areas:

- Revisions to the Vital Signs and Existing Commitments;
- New rules on reconfiguration;

- Future direction and next steps on transforming community services;
- Finance and efficiencies; and
- Accelerating development of the payment system.

The revision document makes clear that the NHS is expected to deliver against the NHS Operating Framework for 2010/11 (as published in December 2009) in all areas not explicitly mentioned. Standards and quality are also expected to be maintained where existing targets are removed or adjusted pending the development of more outcomes-focused measures. Patients would not expect a return to long waiting times for operations.

The NHS must also retain a relentless focus on achieving the £15-20 billion efficiency savings over the next four years by improving quality and productivity so this can be reinvested back into the service.

In essence, the revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11 sets a clear way forward on a small number of areas and highlights further issues where change can be expected. It aims to give certainty to the NHS about the new Government's objectives and plans so that we are prepared to respond and adapt as we have shown we can.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Nicholson', written over a thin vertical red line.

**Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE**  
**NHS Chief Executive**