

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

CLINICAL WASTE SERVICES FOR GPs AND PHARMACIES

FACTSHEET



NHS England has launched a new framework agreement for the collection and disposal of clinical waste from GP surgeries and pharmacies. NHS England is responsible for the funding and commissioning of these services on behalf of GPs and pharmacies. **This factsheet provides some more information about the Framework, the benefits and how you can find out more.**

If you are a GP or pharmacist you will be contacted by your local NHS England team when changes are happening in your area and to explain what this means for you.

The new framework agreement

NHS England's new framework agreement sets out consistent standards for collection and disposal of clinical waste from GPs and unwanted medicines from pharmacies. The framework will deliver a number of benefits including improved quality standards, consistency, better management of contracts and value for money. It is also expected to deliver savings over time, too.

Following a procurement process, five suppliers have been placed on the framework after successfully meeting a range of quality and value-for-money criteria to deliver the best clinical waste services for GPs and pharmacies. When current contracts expire these suppliers will be invited to 'bid' for the contracts in local areas.

How to find out more

- Check out our website: www.england.nhs.uk/clinicalwaste
- Read our frequently asked questions and answers
- Email us: nhsengland.commercial@nhs.net or england.primarycareops@nhs.net



The framework sets out the terms, particularly relating to price, quality and quantity, which have been agreed with chosen suppliers who bid for the right to be on the clinical waste services framework. Each time a new contract is required for the disposal of clinical waste, a 'mini competition' is held inviting the suppliers on the framework to 'bid' to fulfil the individual contract.

"We have designed a specification which we feel brings together the quality standards GPs and pharmacists would expect from their supplier and at the same time will ensure value for money for the taxpayer and consistency across the country."

Dr David Geddes, NHS England's National Head of Primary Care Commissioning

When are changes happening?

Changes aren't happening straight away. The framework will be available from April 2016 but we are taking a phased approach depending on when contracts are due to expire and the readiness of local areas to move to a new service. A key priority will be to ensure a smooth transition for GPs and pharmacies as we move to new contracts.

The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) and BMA's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) have been involved in developing the specification for the service and have welcomed this as a way of bringing consistent standards across the country.

The benefits

- For the first time all suppliers are expected to meet the same standards no matter where they are providing a service.
- Suppliers have been assessed against a range of quality standards as part of the procurement process to be selected onto the framework.
- Suppliers will be monitored against a range of key performance indicators as part of their four year agreement.
- Training will be provided by suppliers for those working in pharmacies and GP surgeries. This will help ensure a smooth transition when new contracts start and that staff are aware of how to dispose of clinical waste appropriately and cost effectively.
- Suppliers have been assessed on how they will support environmental sustainability and safer disposal of clinical waste.
- NHS England's Commercial Team will be supporting NHS England's local teams to monitor performance of clinical waste suppliers and will handle all invoices on behalf of GPs and pharmacies.

"We believe that having consistent NHS service standards across the country can be a benefit and make it easier to ensure that pharmacy contractors know what services they can expect and how to access them. We are therefore pleased to see the NHS working to develop a national specification for clinical waste management. Our involvement in the project has been to seek to ensure that any changes made to clinical waste services will not affect service levels to pharmacies and that the newly specified service will meet their on-going needs."

Stephen Lutener, Director of Regulation and Support, The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee

"We welcome this new approach for clinical waste services which will help to ensure consistent standards for GPs no matter where they are in the country."

Dr Ian Hume, BMA's General Practitioners Committee

The suppliers

Five suppliers have been chosen to provide clinical waste services to GP surgeries and pharmacies. Only these suppliers can now bid for NHS England contracts as and when existing ones expire (for the length of the agreement). This process will be managed by NHS England's Commercial Team working closely with local NHS England teams, GPs and pharmacists so we get the right contract to meet local needs.

NHS England region	Suppliers
North	Cannon Hygiene UK; Healthcare Environmental Services; Sharpsmart UK; SRCL Limited
Midlands and East	Cannon Hygiene UK; Healthcare Environmental Services; Personnel Hygiene Services Limited; Sharpsmart UK; SRCL Limited
London	Cannon Hygiene UK; Healthcare Environmental Services; Personnel Hygiene Services Limited; Sharpsmart UK; SRCL Limited
South	Cannon Hygiene UK; Healthcare Environmental Services; Personnel Hygiene Services Limited; Sharpsmart UK; SRCL Limited