

PRESS RELEASE

Experts Call for New focus on Value in NHS and Scaling up of Best Practice

- *New report warns the NHS must reconsider its approach to value if it is to meet its productivity and efficiency saving targets and secure sustainability*
- *Report authors call for focus on maximising health outcomes within fixed budget and not on the false economy of short term cost cutting and containment measures*
- *Decisions with Value initiative launches with practical guides to help NHS staff overcome barriers to achieving whole system value*

Maidenhead, Berkshire, 19 July 2017 - In a new report experts forewarn that the NHS must move away from the false economy of short term cost cutting and containment measures if it is to meet productivity and efficiency saving targets and secure sustainability of the system. Supported and funded by AbbVie, the report - *Kick-starting Value in the NHS*, calls for healthcare decision making to refocus on value, where the goal of budget and resource allocation should be on securing the greatest improvement in health outcomes within the fixed budget available.

Kick-starting Value in the NHS forms part of a wider initiative – *Decisions with Value*. Developed by a committee of independent experts from the NHS, healthcare policy and academia, *Decisions with Value* has produced a series of guides that aim to equip those commissioning, providing and delivering NHS services with the tools they need to drive positive, sustainable change in the system.

Value-based change is already starting to happen in areas across the UK, with measurable and demonstrable impact but it has yet to become standard practice. With increased demand on services and tightening financial controls, 'value' in NHS services has become synonymous with cost-cutting and containment. Such approaches are often at the expense of health outcomes, which can mean incurring greater downstream costs, doing little to secure long term financial sustainability. In a comparison of 11 developed countries the UK had the lowest spend per capita on healthcare of the five European countries included (9.9%) and performed second worst overall in terms of health outcomes.¹ The UK now lags behind comparative countries in terms of patient outcomes when it comes to post-stroke and heart attack survival rates, respiratory diseases and common cancers.²

“ Flagship NHS initiatives designed to drive value and secure NHS sustainability such as, NHS Right Care and Prudent Healthcare in Wales are helping drive positive change in the system. However, embedding these approaches in everyday practice is enormously challenging. Those trying to drive change at a local level face complex barriers and conflicting organisational priorities. Increasing financial pressures are only adding to these difficulties but we must find ways to increase the scale and pace of change which has value at its core.” said Dr Sally Lewis, Assistant Medical Director (Value-based care), Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, NHS Wales.

Decisions with Value recognises the need for the NHS to consider a more holistic approach to value, across organisations and systems. By taking a longer-term view, the Steering Committee believes it will be possible to deliver improved clinical, financial and patient outcomes, alongside achieving a better experience for patients.

Professor David Taylor, Professor Emeritus of Pharmaceutical and Public Health Policy, UCL said “ Through ‘Kick-starting Value in the NHS’ and the supporting guides, we hope to help frontline health care professionals maximise the value of local NHS services to the people using them and facilitate change in ways that serve patient and public interests as well as possible. This initiative aims to support the cultural and structural development of the NHS in ways that will protect its future.”

Three *Decisions with Value* guides, for commissioners, providers and clinicians, have been developed through extensive research, interviews with frontline healthcare staff and the collective expertise and experience of the Steering Committee. Each guide includes real life case studies, examples of best practice, and links to useful tools and resources.

Commenting on AbbVie’s involvement, Phil Schwab, Director of Government Affairs, AbbVie, added: *“A whole-system approach to healthcare is already the national policy goal for the NHS – but it isn’t happening enough in practice. The Government and NHS must look at how it can scale up good practice in value based care across the healthcare system and eradicate the perverse incentives that maintain inefficiencies, such as over reliance on hospital based care when there are alternatives. Through our support for the Decisions with Value initiative, AbbVie is pleased to be helping those working in the NHS overcome barriers to value based healthcare and shining a light on the good work that is already being done.”*

For further information and to access the *Decisions with Value* information and resources, visit:
<http://www.abbvie.co.uk/decisionswithvalue>

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Notes to Editors

About *Decisions with Value*

- The aim of the *Decisions with Value* initiative is to drive incremental changes that seek to maximise value at the local level, laying the groundwork for the longer-term cultural and structural change required within the NHS.
- The initiative supports the recommendations of the Carter Review and looks to contribute to the achievement of value in the NHS alongside existing NHS programmes such as the implementation of Sustainability and Transformation Plans, NHS Right Care and Getting it Right First Time
- The *Decisions with Value* practical guides, for Providers, Commissioners and Clinicians, provide tools and case studies to support NHS staff in the implementation of value based decisions required by national level policy and programmes and are aligned to Sustainability and Transformation plans in their approach to whole system healthcare
- *Decisions with Value* is funded and organised by AbbVie Ltd. For further information and to access the *Decisions with Value* resources, visit www.abbvie.co.uk/decisionswithvalue
- The *Decisions with Value* Steering Committee consists of the following members:
 - **Anna Anderson**, Former Trust Financial Director; Director, Akebia Consulting Ltd
 - **Professor Gwyn Bevan**, Professor of Policy Analysis, LSE
 - **Professor Stephen Chapman**, Professor of Prescribing Studies, Keele University
 - **Dr Nick Hicks**, Chief Executive, COBIC Solutions Ltd
 - **Dr Anant Jani**, Executive Director, Better Value Healthcare Ltd
 - **Dr Sally Lewis**, Assistant Medical Director (Value-based care), ABUHB, NHS Wales
 - **Helen Liddell**, Head of Medicines Management, Leeds South and East CCG
 - **Patrick McGinley**, Head of Costing and SLR, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
 - **Professor David Taylor**, Professor Emeritus of Pharmaceutical and Public Health Policy, UCL

About AbbVie

AbbVie is a global, research-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world's most complex and critical conditions. The company's

mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments across four primary therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, virology and neuroscience. In more than 75 countries, AbbVie employees are working every day to advance health solutions for people around the world. For more information about AbbVie, please visit us at www.abbvie.co.uk. Follow @abbvieuk on Twitter.

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¹Commonwealth Fund (2017): International Comparison Reflects Flaws and Opportunities for Better U.S. Healthcare. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2017/jul/mirror-mirror-international-comparisons-2017> [Accessed July 2017].

²Niemietz, K. and Bullivant, C. (2016) The UK Health System – An International Comparison of Health Outcomes, UK 2020 Health Paper, UK 2020 Limited. Available at <http://www.uk2020.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2016/10/UK2020-Final-eBook-RGB.pdf> [Accessed July 2017]