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 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

Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE
NHS Chief Executive