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To: SHA Cluster Chief Executives
PCT Cluster Chief Executives
CCG Leaders

INNOVATION HEALTH AND WEALTH Publication of NHS Formularies

Dear Colleague,

In December 2011, *Innovation Health and Wealth: Accelerating Adoption and Diffusion in the NHS* (IHW) was published. It documented the many brilliant examples of pioneering work, great ideas and fantastic improvements happening right across the NHS. Unlike previous reports on innovation, it went further and set out a challenging agenda for action to spread innovation at pace and scale across the NHS.

As part of this commitment, IHW signalled the introduction of a NICE Compliance Regime for Technology Appraisals. Our intention was, and remains clear – to support patient access to NICE recommended medicines and technologies.

Formularies have an important role in underpinning safe and effective use of medicines. However, they should not duplicate NICE assessments or challenge an appraisal recommendation. Once on formularies, there should be no further barriers to the use or prescription of technologies or medicines.

Some good progress has been made, but there is much more to do to reduce variation. With that in mind, I want to see all NHS organisations publish information which sets out which NICE Technology Appraisals are included in their local formularies. PCT Clusters and Clinical Commissioning Groups will need to take the lead in working towards publication by 1st April 2013 at the very latest.

It will be important that the publications are online, and are clear, simple and transparent, so that patients, the public and stakeholders can easily understand them. We will work with the NHS to help with this.

From 1st April 2013, I also intend to make this a standard term and condition in NHS contracts.

In addition, Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, will be writing to NHS Chief pharmacists asking them to review local formulary processes.

Yours sincerely

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

**Sir David Nicholson
NHS Chief Executive**