



## Clinical Commissioning Groups

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in each local area are made up of doctors, nurses and other professionals coming together to use their knowledge of local health needs to commission the best available services for patients. They have the freedom to innovate and commission services for their local community from any service provider which meets NHS standards and costs – these could be NHS hospitals, social enterprises, voluntary organisations or private sector providers. This means better care for patients, designed with knowledge of local services and commissioned in response to their needs. England's 211 CCGs are independent statutory organisations, accountable to their communities and their boards. CCGs will be authorised by the NHS Commissioning Board to carry out their commissioning responsibilities.

**More information:** [Clinical Commissioning Groups directory](#)

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## Local Government

Good health begins in communities. Local government will have significant new responsibilities for health and care and promoting the health and wellbeing of local communities will become a central part of local authorities' work.

Key functions include improving public health, empowering people and local communities and commissioning care. Directors of public health in local authorities will use their knowledge of the local community to tackle public health challenges such as smoking, alcohol and drug misuse and obesity. Local authorities will lead health and wellbeing boards to bring together local agencies to plan services according to local community health needs. Local authorities will also commission care and support services to work together to respond to people's individual needs and choices. This means that people will receive more integrated services provided by councils and the NHS working more closely together.

**More information:** [www.local.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-adult-social-care](http://www.local.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-adult-social-care)

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## Local Healthwatch

From April 2013, there will be a local Healthwatch in each local authority area. Local Healthwatch organisations will involve people from all parts of the community, giving everyone a voice in local health and care services. They will be represented on health and wellbeing boards and will build on the experience and knowledge of existing Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which play a role in shaping services.

Local Healthwatch organisations will collect and collate evidence from community groups and people using local health and care services and bring this to the attention of local health and wellbeing boards and local commissioners. They will use this evidence to inform the work of Healthwatch England, so issues can be raised at a national level also.

Local Healthwatch organisations will be established and funded by local authorities who have a duty to ensure that they are operating effectively.

**More information:** [www.healthwatch.co.uk](http://www.healthwatch.co.uk)

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## Healthwatch England

Healthwatch England is the new, independent consumer champion for health and social care in England. It provides a strong national voice on the key issues that matter to people using health and care services. Healthwatch England gathers evidence based on real experiences of care to press for change where it is needed. It advises the NHS Commissioning Board, English local authorities, Monitor and the Secretary of State and has the power to recommend action be taken on behalf of people using health and care services. Healthwatch England

provides leadership, support and advice to local Healthwatch organisations so they can become strong ambassadors for local people. Healthwatch England will work independently as a statutory committee of the Care Quality Commission.

**More information:** [www.healthwatch.co.uk](http://www.healthwatch.co.uk)

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## Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator for all health and social care services in England. CQC's purpose is to drive improvement in the quality of care through the unique function of measuring whether services meet national standards of quality and safety. CQC does this to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of people who use health and social care services; and to encourage improvement, ensuring that services are focused on people's needs and that resources are used effectively and efficiently. CQC is a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

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## The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides guidance, standards and information to help health and care professionals deliver the best possible care based on the best available evidence. NICE involves patients, carers and the public in the development of its guidance and other products. It also takes account of the views of health and social care professionals, NHS organisations, industry and local government.

NICE is currently a Special Health Authority and will become a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health, subject to legislation.

**More information:** [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

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## Public Health England

Public Health England (PHE) is a new organisation that will improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It will provide national leadership for locally-led public health services and expert services to respond to health protection emergencies, working alongside local government, the NHS and other key partners.

PHE is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.dh.gov.uk/publichealthengland](http://www.dh.gov.uk/publichealthengland)

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## Monitor

Monitor is becoming the sector regulator for health care. Its primary role will be to protect and promote the interest of people who use health care services. It will do this by making sure that the health services provided by the NHS are effective and offer value for money, while maintaining or improving the quality of patient care. Licensing providers of health care will be one of the main tools Monitor will use to do this.

Monitor is a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk](http://www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk)

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## NHS Commissioning Board

The NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) is at the heart of the new health and care system. It will ensure that the money spent on NHS services delivers the best possible care for patients. It will also promote the NHS Constitution and the values and commitments contained within it. The NHS CB will directly commission the primary health care provided

locally by GPs, nurses and other health professionals as well as some specialist national services. Working with leading health specialists, it will bring together expertise to promote consistently high national standards of care across the country. Its other key function is to support and fund local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) who will use their knowledge of local health needs to commission the best available services for their local communities. The NHS Commissioning Board will work collaboratively with patients, professionals and communities to shape the future of the NHS together.

It is a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health, accountable to the Secretary of State for Health through its Mandate.

**More information:** [www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk](http://www.commissioningboard.nhs.uk)

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## **NHS Litigation Authority**

The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) supports providers of health and care by both managing negligence claims on behalf of members and working to improve the management of risks in the NHS. It resolves fairly claims made against its scheme members helping the NHS to learn from them to improve patient safety.

NHSLA is a Special Health Authority.

**More information:** [www.nhsla.com](http://www.nhsla.com)

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## **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority**

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is the UK's independent regulator of IVF treatment and embryo research. It sets standards for UK fertility clinics and all UK research involving human embryos.

It also provides impartial information to the public and for people seeking treatment, donor-conceived people and donors.

The HFEA is a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.hfea.gov.uk](http://www.hfea.gov.uk)

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## **NHS Blood and Transplant**

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) provides the NHS with a safe supply of blood, organs, tissues and stem cells. Every year it manages around 2 million units of blood donated by the public and thousands of donations of organs, tissues and cord blood units. NHSBT is a Special Health Authority and is accountable to the Department of Health and its regulators for the quality of its products and services and to the four national administrations' health departments for organ donation.

**More information:** [www.nhsbt.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk)

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## **Health Research Authority**

The Health Research Authority (HRA) promotes and protects the interests of patients and the public in health research. It makes sure that health research is ethically reviewed and approved, and that anyone considering participating in health research is provided with information to help them decide whether they wish to take part.

HRA is currently a Special Health Authority pending its intended establishment as a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.hra.nhs.uk](http://www.hra.nhs.uk)

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## **National Institute For Health Research**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) aims to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. It supports health research so that scientific discoveries are quickly translated into real benefits for patients, the public and the British economy.

The NIHR plays a key role in the Government's strategy for economic growth, attracting investment by life-sciences industries through its world-class infrastructure for health research. NIHR is funded by the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

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## **NIHR Clinical Research Network**

As part of the National Institute for Health Research, the NIHR Clinical Research Network provides the infrastructure for high-quality clinical research in the NHS, to make it possible for patients and health professionals to participate.

The Clinical Research Network helps researchers to set up clinical studies quickly and effectively; supports the life-sciences industry to deliver research programmes; provides health professionals with research training; and works with patients to ensure their needs are at the very centre of all research activity.

**More information:** [www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk)

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## **Health and Social Care Information Centre**

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) supports the health and care system by collecting, analysing and publishing national data and statistical information. It will also deliver national IT systems and services to support health and care providers. The HSCIC will become a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health on 1 April 2013.

**More information:** [www.ic.nhs.uk](http://www.ic.nhs.uk)

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## **Local Education and Training boards**

Local Education and Training Boards (LETBs) are committees of Health Education England. They enable health professionals and providers of care to work together to improve the quality of education and training in each local area. This benefits organisations providing health care, patients and the public.

LETBs also help shape HEE's national strategies and priorities so that education and training adapts quickly to new ways of working and leads to better services.

LETBs are statutory sub-committees of Health Education England.

**More information:** [LETBs guidance](#)

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## **Health Education England**

Health Education England (HEE) is the new national leadership organisation for the education, training and development of the healthcare workforce. It supports improvements in care for patients by ensuring that the right numbers of staff with the right skills are available wherever they are needed. HEE is a Special Health Authority.

**More information:** [www.hee.nhs.uk](http://www.hee.nhs.uk)

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## Professional Regulators

Most health and social care professionals who work in the UK must be registered with one of the independent professional regulators. These organisations help protect the public by ensuring that professional standards are met.

**More information:** [Who regulates health and social care professionals?](#) [back](#)

## Medicines Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) makes sure that medicines and medical devices work and are safe to use. It is responsible for the regulation of medicines, medical devices and equipment used in healthcare and the investigation of harmful incidents. It also works with UK blood services, healthcare providers, and other relevant organisations to improve quality and safety.

MHRA is an Executive Agency (Trading Fund) of the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk) [back](#)

## NHS Business Services Authority

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) provides a range of critical support services to NHS organisations, NHS contractors, patients and the public. Its services include payments to community pharmacists and dentists for their NHS work, the administration of the NHS pension scheme as well as a range of other support services.

The NHS Business Services Authority is a Special Health Authority.

**More information:** [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk) [back](#)

## NHS Trust Development Authority

The NHS Trust Development Authority (NHS TDA) supports NHS trusts to improve so they can take advantage of the benefits of foundation trust status when they are ready. It helps each trust secure sustainable, high quality services for the patients and communities it serves. NHS TDA is a time-limited Special Health Authority.

**More information:** [www.ntda.nhs.uk](http://www.ntda.nhs.uk) [back](#)

## Human Tissue Authority

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) regulates human tissue, such as donated organs, to ensure it is used safely and ethically, and with proper consent. It works to promote the interests of the public by regulating organisations that remove, store and use human tissue for research, medical treatment, post-mortem examination, teaching and display in public. It also approves organ and bone marrow donations from living people. The HTA is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health.

**More information:** [www.hta.gov.uk](http://www.hta.gov.uk) [back](#)

## **The Secretary of State, Parliament, Department of Health and other government departments**

The Secretary of State for Health has ultimate responsibility for ensuring the whole system works together to respond to the priorities of communities and meet the needs of patients. He is accountable to Parliament for the provision of the health service in England. The Department of Health is the system leader for health and care. It supports its arm's length bodies and ensures that they deliver services according to agreed national priorities. It sets objectives and budgets and holds the system to account on behalf of the Secretary of State. It also works with other parts of government to promote health and wellbeing across all public services. [back](#)

## **Local Health and Care Services**

At the heart of the new system are the local health and care services people use on a daily basis. Family doctors, nurses, pharmacists and online/telephone services will continue to be the first port of call for most people needing health care. In the new health and care system people will have more say about the care they receive and doctors, nurses and other health and care professionals will have more freedom to shape services to meet people's needs. A wider range of health care providers will provide more choice for patients and greater value. [back](#)