Healthcare Improvement Scotland response

Legislative Consent Memorandum – Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Legislative Consent Memorandum – Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill. The Scottish Medicines Consortium is part of Healthcare Improvement Scotland and this response is from the organisation as a whole. In the context of this consultation Healthcare Improvement Scotland / Scottish Medicines Consortium expertise is in health technology assessment of medicines for use in the NHS in Scotland. Medicines pricing is not our specific area of focus, though we are supportive of any proposals that lead to better controls of the cost of medicines and other supplies to the NHS in Scotland, and that lead to better consistency of medicines pricing across the UK.

We are therefore supportive of the proposals to give powers to the Secretary of State for Health to collect information from all parts of the UK supply chain, particularly manufacturers and wholesalers, and of the amendment to enable disclosure of this information to the Scottish Ministers, Common Services Agency for NHSScotland for use for specific devolved purposes.

In conclusion Healthcare Improvement Scotland agrees that legislative consent covering the information powers in the Bill (to the extent that they relate to devolved matters) is in the best interest of NHSScotland.