

Between Specialised Services Clinical Reference Groups & the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry



The establishment of NHS England Specialised Services National Clinical Reference Groups (CRG) offers a real opportunity to develop new partnership ways of working between those designing future services and commercial organisations, building capability and products for the delivery of healthcare. The compact provides a framework for staff in the NHS and individuals in the commercial sector to look ahead to new ways of working. The use of these compact principles aims to bring intellect, creativity and energy to improve healthcare in ways that add value to the patients, the NHS and the partnered commercial organisations¹.

What can the NHS England CRGs expect from a partnership with a pharmaceutical organisation?	What can the pharmaceutical organisations expect from a partnership with a NHS England CRG?
Partnership to drive the delivery of high quality treatments and services for patients and the promotion of joint working which will follow the principles in the Joint Working Toolkit	To be involved in the formation of clinical access policy development that relates to their product or specifications to a field of interest
Access to information, analysis and insight, respecting confidentiality and the development of shared governance of data	The sharing of non-patient identifiable data on variations in patient access and clinical outcomes
The promotion of the expertise of the CRGs among global colleagues, encouraging them to consider their input into development of new medicines	A collaboration in developing research including developing methods of collecting real world data, developing and managing data registries, and non-intervention studies
Development of the means to share skills and expertise of the industry	Access to the expertise within the CRG - both clinical and the patient and public voice
Optimisation of the quality of the engagement, which includes having appropriate individuals with the right knowledge and skills	A single point of contact for each CRG (this may be a different member to the Chair)
The development of processes to provide medical information on the use of unlicensed medicines [subject to a documented request from a CRG] when there is clinical need in individual patients and no suitable licensed alternative	A collaboration on the development of paediatric drug research and shared input to commissioning products
The creation of a new industry group tasked with developing the strategic partnership	A stakeholder engagement plan that includes the industry with parity of esteem to other stakeholders
Help to identify where on pathways of care efficiencies (quality and productivity) can be made	Inclusion in the work to evaluate pathways of care
Support implementation of service policies where appropriate, and the adoption of new medicines	Support for the implementation of service policy across the health economy
Transparency about engagement, in particular around any resources provided	Facilitation of meetings with individual or multiple companies with stakeholder interest in a particular therapy area
Provision of timely and appropriate advance product information to support Horizon Scanning and impact assessment, to help inform planning decisions, i.e. new chemical entities, new indications and formulations for existing products ²	Provision of effective and timely clinical expertise into NHS England evaluation processes Provision of service expertise in Horizon Scanning
ABPI will host an annual meeting between representatives of the CRGs and industry	The organisation of a national conference for Specialised Services to include all stakeholder companies

The principles of the [ABPI Code of Practice](#) will provide a framework for the governance of industry engagement and the code will be periodically reviewed to ensure relevance

¹ The compact is based on thinking from 'Leading Physicians Through Change', by Jack Sliversin

² Subject to usual terms and conditions about provision of commercial in confidence data