

Update on the British healthcare reform

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The Department of Health (DH) in the UK has provided new information regarding the possible healthcare reform

The Department of Health (DH) in the UK has now announced the next step in the process for changing the arrangements for the provision of certain health care appliances, including wound care dressings, incontinence appliances and ostomy products.

In October 2005 the DH published a Consultation paper that was seeking to review the "Arrangements for the Provision of Dressings, Incontinence Appliances, Stoma Appliances, Chemical Reagents and Other Appliances to Primary and Secondary Care".

The formal Consultation period closed on 23 January 2006. Coloplast, along with many trade bodies, patient groups, professional groups and other individual companies, submitted a written response to this document.

The written responses were then collated and reviewed by the DH. Following this exercise the DH determined that further consultation was necessary with interested parties. This consultation took place during late February/early March and took the form of a series of meetings between a panel from the DH and individual interested parties, including Coloplast.

Following the last of these meetings, the DH drew up a report identifying their findings to date. This report was then submitted to the Health Minister, Jane Kennedy for her review with three basic options being available:

1. Do nothing (i.e. announce no change to the current systems)
2. Impose a solution
3. Enter a period of further dialogue

It has now been announced and confirmed by the DH that further consultation will be conducted with interested parties. No timescale has been announced though we would expect to hear shortly in this respect.

For further information, please refer to Stock Exchange Information no. 8/2005 of 2 November 2005.