

## Supplier Management

### NHS Clinical Evaluation Team (CET) responses following supplier conversation day – 6 January 2017, Skipton House, London

This document contains responses to some of the questions arising at Clinical Evaluation Team Supplier Events.

	Supplier comment / question	CET response
1	Would we share evaluation methodology with supplier base as we do with clinicians?	Suppliers are engaged at the intelligence gathering stage of the procedure and are requested to provide any information that they consider relevant to their product being clinically assessed. When the evaluation criteria have been fully developed and before the evaluation of products, suppliers will be provided with the clinical criteria against which their products will be evaluated. The suppliers will be given the opportunity to provide any further information not already provided that they consider relevant to the criteria, which the CET will consider as part of the process.
2	Products are clinically acceptable because they meet the standards – why does CET need to review standards?	The CET is not seeking to review the standards. The team wants to fully understand the relevant standards and how they apply to products. The CET's reports seek to highlight specific aspects of products as requested by clinicians. The team is not recommending that certain products should be bought (or not) by the NHS. It is clear that all of the products available on the current NHS Supply Chain catalogue have been EU-compliantly procured and are available for purchase by the NHS.
3	What is the process and timetable for re-evaluation? And report expiry dates?	A process for re-evaluation is under development. Once that exercise is complete the CET will communicate the outcome to suppliers as quickly as it is able.

4	In evaluations, did we take into account product training?	The CET evaluates against NHS clinically defined criteria for each report which have not taken into account product training to date. The NHS told the CET that training is a unique situation in each organisation and is for determination as part of a localised, bespoke implementation plan.
5	If suppliers take on board recommendations and make product/packaging changes, how do we work together to publish and take account in our reports?	A process for this is under development. Once that exercise is complete the CET will communicate the outcome to suppliers as quickly as it is able.