



Southampton City

Interim Guidelines Consultation
Cooperation and Competition Panel
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28th April 2009

Dear Sirs

The consultation document on the draft interim guidelines for the Co-operation and Competition Panel was considered by the Board of NHS Southampton City on 22nd April 2009.

In general the Board welcomed the approach being taken recognising that this is a rapidly evolving picture and noting further revision is likely.

In reviewing the draft guidelines, the Board wished to make the following points:-

- The tension between the role of the PCT as both local Market Regulators and Systems Managers and a need for this to be recognised.
- The increasing emphasis on quality and outcomes as an important currency within the NHS market means the panel should give this equal weighting as the impact on cost within the guidelines.
- The risk that the thresholds (£70 million for acute and £35 million for community services) could be seen as being a barrier for future decision making especially at a time when there is rapid change in community provision. The Board would feel uncomfortable if this threshold was seen to automatically imply that anything over this market was inherently monopolistic.
- The risk that referrals to the Panel would act as a bottleneck to market development especially if the filters hold up the process.
- The need for further work to clarify a better understanding around "barriers to entry" within the market.
- The need for further work on understanding the required due diligence that PCTs and SHA will need to follow in applying the rules.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Paynton, FRCGP, DMS
Managing Director Commercial Services



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