

A Healthcare Partner

Roche and the NHS

Roche aims to be an effective and valued healthcare partner. This is how we see ourselves and how we strive to be viewed by all those we work with in the National Health Service.

As one of the major pharmaceutical companies and the leading diagnostics company in the UK, Roche develops and provides an innovative range of products designed to help healthcare professionals improve the health and wellbeing of patients.

Our global development team based in the UK works closely with hospitals around the country to organise clinical trials for new medicines. We then seek to enhance our products with a range of innovative services that add value for patients, clinicians, healthcare commissioners and NHS managers alike.

We offer, for example, a comprehensive patient support programme that provides obese and seriously overweight people with relevant information on obesity tailored to their specific needs and access to expert advice through a telephone helpline service. Roche also provides specialist nurses to support, advise and train patients receiving our treatments for bowel and breast cancer, chronic anaemia and cystic fibrosis in their own homes. As well as being more convenient for patients, these services help ease the burden on NHS hospital clinics.

GPs, hospital doctors and nurses also benefit from a range of Roche services and tools designed to help them treat patients more effectively and use resources more efficiently. Many of these services also assist NHS organisations in meeting national targets set by the Government in disease areas like cancer and heart failure. For example, we fund a team of Obesity Management Advisers who train practice nurses in setting up local weight management clinics.

Roche has developed a method to help clinicians predict whether a patient will respond to our new treatment for hepatitis C. We are also developing a computer analysis tool to aid GPs and specialists to identify patients who would most benefit from early intervention to prevent kidney disease.

We support our treatments with training materials in areas which include the use of the newer "clot-buster" drugs for heart attack patients and the

treatment of anaemia in patients with kidney disease.

We also recognise the crucial role of health service commissioners and managers in improving services and modernising the NHS. We seek to be their partner of choice by designing and delivering tools such as health economic arguments, business cases, budget impact models and service development materials which are being used extensively to modernise the service in the disease areas in which we have expertise.

We also support NHS partnership programmes such as disease management initiatives, leveraging our resources and expertise to help identify new approaches to service delivery. For example, we contribute towards investigating a new approach to the management of obesity through an initiative known as Counterweight, a study delivered through a partnership between community-based and hospital-based health services.

Roche supports the aims of each of the national technology appraisal and clinical guidelines organisations in the UK, such as the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Scottish Medicines Consortium, which include encouraging faster uptake of clinically and cost effective new treatments and promoting more equitable access to them. Our experience with these organisations is considerable and our focus includes supporting the NHS in ensuring that the recommendations of these organisations can be rapidly implemented.

By understanding and supporting the goals of our partners in the NHS and the challenges they face, we work together to improve the health and wellbeing of people in the UK.

