

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES “SECTOR DEAL” FOR WOUND CARE

The UK Government has this week given its backing to the wound care industry through its support for the development and uptake of digital clinical decision-making tools.

This “Sector Deal” involves industry, the AHSN network and the NHS working together, with government commitments to improve innovation adoption, to reduce variation and improve patient outcomes in wound care treatment. This is the Government’s second wave of deals from 2017’s Life Science Industrial Strategy.

The wound care deal is an important step for the health technology sector, with the announcement well-placed to provide the framework for future agreements.

Commenting on the news, ABHI CEO Peter Ellingworth said: *“I am pleased to see this significant backing of our sector. HealthTech products and services deliver vital improvements to patient care and enable a more efficient health care system. As such, we are working with Government to ensure that the agreement encapsulates a broad range of wound care and digital companies, whilst exploring how this approach to collaborative working can be applied to other areas of our industry. These partnerships will deliver value across the whole health system, and NHS procurement decisions must recognise that, rather than simply focusing on achieving lowest price.”*

Chair of the AHSN Network, Seamus O’Neill added: *“The AHSN Network will be working with the NHS and the wound care industry as part of the Office for Life Sciences Industrial Strategy. The AHSN has expertise in the Quality Improvement initiatives required to deliver sustained improvements in outcomes across the NHS. Partnership with industry colleagues will help us to do more, faster. The consortium will be a vehicle for exploring how the use of digital clinical decision support tools, can reduce variation in wound care, maximise the impact of resources and improve patient outcomes.”*

Notes:

Latest Government figures¹ highlight 4,775 employees working across the wound care sector in the UK. The sector is part of the wider HealthTech industry, the largest employer in Life Sciences with 97,300 workers.

The NHS treats around 3.7 million patients with a wound each year, costing £8-9 billion².



**Sources:**

1. Strength & Opportunity 2017, Office for Life Sciences
2. Julian F Guest J.F. et. al. Health economic burden that wounds impose on the National Health Service, UKBMJ Open, Vol.5, issue 12. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/5/12/e009283>

About ABHI

ABHI is the UK's leading health technology trade association. With over 280 members, ABHI supports the health technology community to provide products and services that help people live healthier lives. Our work is focused on showing the value of HealthTech and encouraging a healthy environment for economic growth. We help companies understand HealthTech regulation and our work is underpinned by our Code of Business Practice, which all Members adhere to.