

Appliance Prescription Management Service (APMS)



Contract Start:
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2 years + 2 extensions

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Background

The East of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub's Appliance Prescription Management Service framework (APMS) is a national agreement giving trusts and other public bodies access to the provision of regular, reliable, managed appliance prescription services and advice hubs with specialist clinical input. Prescription appliances can include stoma and continence supplies, for example pouches, flanges, catheters, urinary bags, barrier creams and sprays. The agreement can also accommodate any other suitable appliance-based services.

The APMS framework was developed following research carried out by the East of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub (EOECPH), into the region's stoma care services. Findings, published in EOECPH's StoMap Baseline Report in September 2019, helped to inform this framework with the aim of assisting trusts in delivering patient-focussed services and aiding improvements to patient care whilst achieving cost saving efficiencies by reducing waste from overprescribing and overordering.

Contract Benefits

- delivers a better quality of life and more independence to patients
- reduces complications through regular interactions with patients, delivering improved clinical care
- patients remain central to decision making over which products are used and are offered a reasonable choice
- ensures items issued are cost-effective and quantities supplied are in line with a patient's clinical needs, delivering value for money for commissioners
- helps patients to make an unbiased and objective choice of dispensing appliance contractor (DAC) or local pharmacy - patients can choose or amend their dispensing organisation (DAC or community pharmacy)
- reduces overprescribing and overordering thus reducing waste and supporting potential cost saving efficiencies - suppliers will work with Participating Authorities to monitor and reduce instances of overordering
- improves prescribing control through consistent application of prescribing guidance and locally agreed accessory formularies

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The Hub is a collaborative NHS organisation that works with customers by using procurement and commercial expertise to drive value and efficiencies across the NHS.

Appliance Prescription Management Service (APMS)

Contract Benefits *continued*

- reduces unwarranted variation of products
- frees up GP time by having specialist nurses managing prescriptions to add clinical value to the prescribing process
- ensures suitable quantities and products are prescribed, reducing primary care administration time for GPs
- framework is flexible and can be used for any suitable products
- ensures a legally compliant route to market for participating organisations.

Scope of Services

This framework puts in place a national agreement which is available to EOECPH member trusts and other public bodies (including those not already full or pharmacy EOECPH members) who sign the customer access agreement. The APMS framework can last for up to four years, with an initial term of two years, plus two twelve-month options to extend.

This procurement was run under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 following an open procedure and using an unranked multi-award framework agreement. This type of agreement was selected to provide the necessary flexibility needed to manage a key market characteristic, where no single supplier can access all products that a participating organisation may require.

The APMS framework gives Participating Authorities the flexibility to award contracts directly or via mini competition. Trusts also have the opportunity to engage with suppliers, explore the market and use further competitions.

As a general prescription management service, this unique, single lot framework is focused on the service element and is suitably flexible to be used for any appropriate products.

Suppliers

The suppliers on this framework are as follows:

- Bullen Healthcare Group
- CliniMed Ltd (SecuriCare (Medical) Ltd)
- Coloplast UK Ltd
- Fittleworth Medical (Connect Prescription Services)

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