

# Anatomy of joint procurement

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# What is NHS-HE joint procurement?

- One institution in one sector buying for all its potential users irrespective of sectoral alignment?
- One institution in one sector buying for the institution plus another defined institution?
- One institution in one sector buying for the institution plus defined subset of users of one or more institutions from the other sector?
- One institution from one sector buying a top-up to an existing subscription by another institution from the other sector?
- One sector buying for an entire country (with or without contribution from the other sector)?
- Two institutions, one from each sector, buying together simultaneously?



# What is NHS-HE joint procurement? (1)

One institution in one sector buying for all its potential users, irrespective of sectoral alignment?

Example: UCL Library Services agreement with BMJ Publishing Group for access to Best Health, Clinical Evidence and Drug & Therapeutics Bulletin; with Ovid for access to 47 Books@Ovid, the Lippincott Total Access Collection and APA PsycARTICLES; with Mary Ann Liebert for access to the MAL journals.



## What is NHS-HE joint procurement? (2)

One institution in one sector buying for the institution plus another defined institution?

Examples: Health Services Library, University of Southampton, buys 43 journals from Ovid for both the Hospital Trust and the University; Cairns Library, University of Oxford, buys Drug & Therapeutics Bulletin and Clinical Evidence from BMJ Publishing for both the Hospital Trust and University.



## What is NHS-HE joint procurement? (3)

One institution in one sector buying for the institution plus defined subset of users of one or more institutions from the other sector?

Examples: London Deanery subscription to BMJ Learning, with access extended to the five London medical schools; access for a specific subset of NHS researchers within a Biomedical Research Unit affiliated with an academic institution.



## What is NHS-HE joint procurement? (4)

One institution from one sector buying a top-up to an existing subscription by another institution from the other sector?

Example: The London Medical Schools Group has agreements with publishers that cover up to 56.7% of London NHS staff in Trusts affiliated to the medical schools. NHS London's eKAT has extended the agreement with the BMJ Publishing Group for access to the Drug & Therapeutics Bulletin and with Ovid for access to the Lippincott Total Access Collection for all non-affiliated Trusts and APA PsycARTICLES for all mental health Trusts in London.



## What is NHS-HE joint procurement? (5)

One sector buying for an entire country (with or without contribution from the other sector)?

Example: The Cochrane Library procurement was undertaken country-wide for England by the NHS. Many other country-wide agreements have been reached for the Cochrane Library around the world.



## What is NHS-HE joint procurement? (6)

Two national institutions, one from each sector, buying together simultaneously?

Example: None to date. Why has this particular scenario not been successful to date? What conditions would be necessary for this to succeed?





## Possible models for the future (1)

Academic Health Science Centre model, including the model of Biomedical Research Units as well as teaching hospitals – based on close links between the medical school and the hospital(s).

In this model, the academic institution is at the centre, and procurement may well be negotiated by the academic institution. The pressure for enhanced access might arise as a result of research priorities common to the organisations involved.



## Possible models for the future (2)

### Procurement cycle alignment in the NHS

In NHS England, the re-procurement of the core content resources is about to begin; NHS Scotland have paused their own procurement cycle to allow collaborative purchasing models to be explored.

In this model, the NHS organisation is at the centre. The choice of resources here might arise from the needs of clinical practice. As Peter Hill suggested:



## Possible models for the future

“Whilst the NHS ... should determine, by discussion and agreement, what the national core content should be, there would be great advantages in the NHS and HE working together on joint procurement.”

Hill P. Report of a national review of NHS health library services in England: from knowledge to health in the 21st century. NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement; 2008 Mar. At:  
[http://www.library.nhs.uk/nlhdocs/national\\_library\\_review\\_final\\_report\\_4feb\\_081.pdf](http://www.library.nhs.uk/nlhdocs/national_library_review_final_report_4feb_081.pdf)

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## Possible models for the future

The NHS-HE Forum Content Group continues to review options for joint procurement arising from these models.

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