

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL
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Practice-Led Commissioning has Implications for Entire NHS

In response to the Department of Health's guidance on practice-led commissioning, Nigel Edwards, Director of Policy at the NHS Confederation, said: "This is a very significant policy development which has implications for the entire NHS. Like any complex change, it would benefit from more discussion with those responsible for implementation. In particular, we need to incorporate the lessons of previous experiments in practice-led commissioning, which have proved to be all incentive and no sanction - practices that under-spend can keep the surplus, whereas those who over-spend are allowed to rely on PCTs to pick up the tab. "

Nigel added: "We also need to ensure this policy supports the new focus on patient choice. There are already some excellent examples of PCTs using practice-led commissioning to drive better services and we must ensure we learn from them."