

## NEWS RELEASE



**21<sup>st</sup> February 2005**

### **Northgate calls for earlier identification of healthcare trends**

Northgate Information Solutions today called for the early analysis of trends in healthcare to improve performance and simplify the assessment process.

In a response to the Healthcare Commission's consultation on local health services, Northgate welcomed the Commission's citizen-centred approach, which focuses on developing assessment systems around the issues that matter to local people.

Information technology can assist in harnessing and disseminating relevant data to deliver a more effective and efficient assessment system. It can support the earlier identification of unusual trends, enabling action to tackle poor performance and building confidence in the assessment process.

#### **David Meaden, Managing Director of Northgate Public Services, said:**

"We warmly welcome the Healthcare Commission's consultation. Building the assessment process around the issues that matter to local people is key to delivering citizen-centred improvements.

"Providing the public with early access to information is equally critical, helping to enhance the accountability of health service providers and sustain public trust.

"We would also like to see the improved use of existing information through the early analysis of unusual trends, building confidence in the assessment process without adding to the administrative burden."

-ENDS-

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#### **Notes to editors**

1. Northgate is a technology services company with a difference. It is committed to high quality public services and understands the public sector. That knowledge is core to its business. Its task is to enhance public sector value through the intelligent use of people and information technology systems and to share in the economic and social benefits that this brings.
2. Northgate works with both the Department of Health and the Healthcare Commission. Northgate also works with a number of local health trusts, helping them to review and improve their performance.