

Diagnostics in Healthcare

The British In Vitro Diagnostics Association Newsletter



BIVDA

ISSUE 25

SPRING 2011

Inside this issue... Supporting a plan for growth · Delivering better outcomes for the patients and the NHS · Diagnostics and health reform · IVD's in action

Introduction



Doris-Ann Williams
Director General, BIVDA

Welcome to the 25th issue of Diagnostics in Healthcare, the quarterly update for parliamentarians on the *in vitro* diagnostics (IVD) industry brought to you by the British In Vitro Diagnostics Association (BIVDA).

As the Health and Social Care Bill proceeds through Parliament, we are already seeing the early structures of the new health and social care system come into place through the emergence of GP pathfinder consortia and early implementer health and wellbeing boards. In this edition we explore the importance of *in vitro* diagnostics in these new structures and some of the work BIVDA members are doing to support this to ensure the best outcomes for both patients and the NHS.

In this issue we will also be looking at the work BIVDA is doing with other life sciences trade associations to highlight the importance of the human healthcare industry in delivering on the Government's 'Plan for Growth' announced at this year's Budget. Life sciences continues to be a thriving industry within the UK economy, demonstrated through increased growth and turnover over the past year. BIVDA is keen to work with the government and all parts of the health system to make sure the benefits of this are delivered to the NHS and the wider economy.

I hope you find this edition of Diagnostics in Healthcare of interest. If you would like any further information about the content in this issue or *in vitro* diagnostics in general, please do get in touch at the contact details below. I would be more than happy to visit you in Westminster.



“ Life sciences continues to be a thriving industry within the UK economy, demonstrated through increased growth and turnover over the past year ”

About BIVDA

BIVDA is the national trade association for the manufacturers and distributors of IVD products in the UK and we currently represent more than 95% of the industry and over a hundred organizations ranging from British start up companies to UK subsidiaries of multinational corporations. BIVDA members currently employ over 8,000 people in the UK, with a total industry turnover of approximately £900 million.

the difference diagnostics can make

Supporting a plan for growth

In January of this year, BIVDA and three other life sciences trade associations jointly launched a new initiative which will represent the human healthcare industry. LifeSciencesUK has grown out of the success of collaborative work with the Office for Life Sciences between the four trade associations, including a submission to the government's growth review.

Together BIVDA, the Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI), the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) and the BioIndustry Association (BIA) will work with government and industry representatives to strengthen and grow the UK's vibrant life sciences sector, which has the potential to bring benefits to both patients and the country's economy.

That's why, during this year's Budget, BIVDA and LifeSciencesUK welcomed measures set out in the Government's Plan for Growth, which aims to support the development of the healthcare and life sciences industry. Steps to reduce bureaucracy, standardise

processes and increase NHS performance on the approval of clinical trials should help speed up the availability of new treatment options for patients and encourage innovation.

BIVDA welcomed the commitment to identify innovative technologies that was set out in the Growth Review. However, it will be important that any commitment to identifying new and innovative technologies is accompanied by the resources and mechanisms that are necessary to drive adoption in the NHS.

Over the coming months we look forward to working with the Government and parliamentarians to support the implementation of the Plan for Growth and ensure the full potential of the life sciences industry is met.

If you would like to find out more about the work of LifeSciencesUK, then please visit our website at www.lifesciences.org.uk



BIVDA at the NHS Innovation Expo

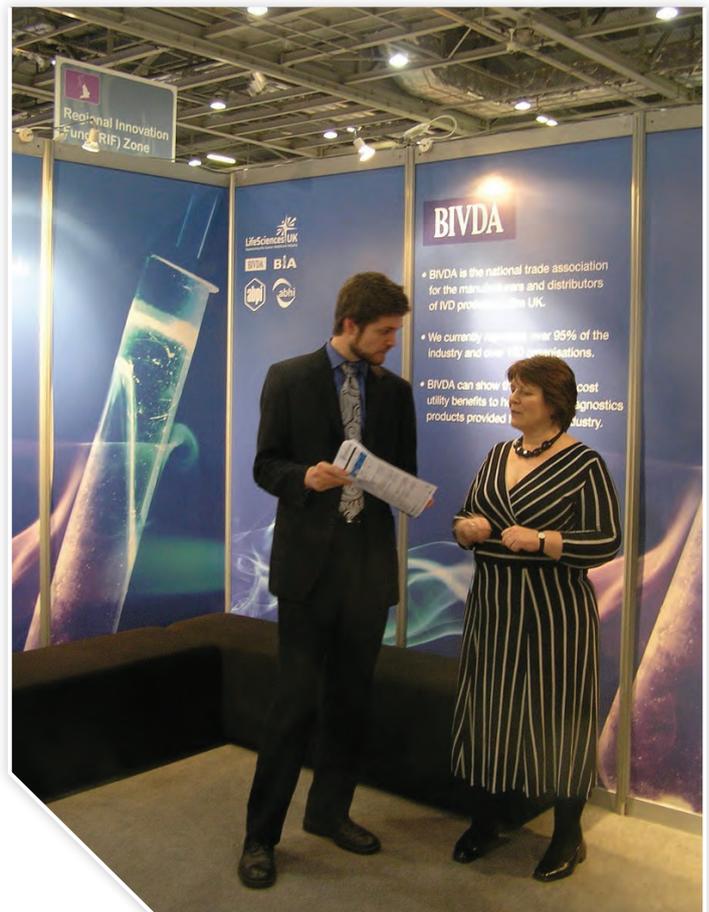
The NHS hosted a second Innovation Expo on 9th and 10th March at ExCel in Docklands. BIVDA had a presence at the Expo with a small stand from where we launched our Technology briefs, with the instrumentation for one of these displayed. These one-page documents each detail a single diagnostic test which can save money and improve health outcomes if implemented by the NHS. The example on display was an assay to improve the management of breast cancer, enabling clinicians to make informed decisions about patient treatment actually during an operation.

Elsewhere in the exhibition, 10 of these IVD technologies were included on the DH Innovation Wall as part of the Innovative Technology Adoption Procurement Programme (iTAPP) which is an element of the DH's QIPP workstream. These 10 IVD tests alone could represent savings of more than £1 billion to the NHS.

BIVDA also produced a filmed case study of one of these innovations – rapid ruling out of heart attack in A&E which is being included as part of the DH Expo film and will be available to view on the DH website or on YouTube, including a contribution from Dr Beth Christian, a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at St.Thomas's Hospital.

The BIVDA Technology briefs can all be seen at www.bivda.co.uk/technologybriefs

BIVDA pictures of the Expo can be downloaded from <https://picasaweb.google.com/Colouredglasses/Mar102011#>



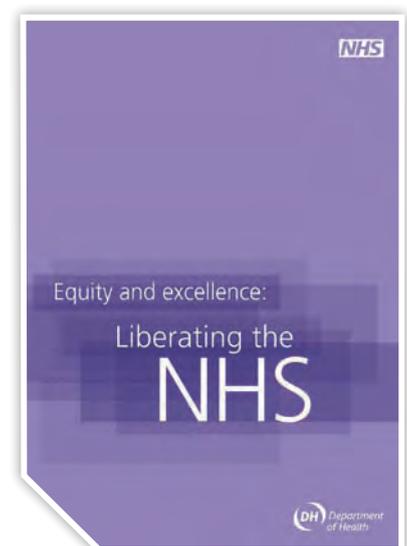


Diagnostics and the health reforms

The Health and Social Care Bill has now completed Committee stage in the House of Commons. With almost 300 clauses and now at almost 400 pages the Bill is the largest and, arguably, most controversial piece of health legislation in a generation and is likely to face considerable scrutiny from parliamentarians. Amid debate on the legislation, many of the health structures it proposes are already beginning to take shape with the introduction of the pathfinder GP consortia last November and early implementer health and wellbeing boards in March of this year.

GP pathfinder consortia now cover 90% of the country and are set to test different models of the new commissioning structure before formal arrangements are put into place. BIVDA welcomes proposals to ensure clinical involvement in commissioning and believes that it is vital that emerging GP consortia are given all the support necessary to ensure they are able to carry out their function effectively for patients.

Over the coming months, BIVDA will work with MPs and peers to look for clarity from the Government about where commissioning responsibilities for *in vitro* diagnostics will sit under the new structure. We believe there is a role for both national commissioning and GP commissioning of diagnostic tests. While there are many simple and routine tests that should be commissioned at the GP consortia level to bring decisions closer to patients, national or regional oversight may be necessary for more complicated tests, such as molecular diagnostics. As the NHS Commissioning Board develops in shadow form it will be critical that decisions like these are made to ensure clarity for the developing structures.



Delivering better outcomes for patients and the NHS

Diagnostics have a key part to play, both in measuring and improving outcomes for patients and the NHS. Ensuring better outcomes for patients can only be done through an increased focus on reporting clinical outcomes. Pathology, for example, makes up 70% of all clinical decisions in the NHS and the information obtained from the use of *in vitro* diagnostic tests is important in the accurate reporting of clinical outcomes.

BIVDA has engaged in the development of NICE quality standards, and believes that they will play an important role in holding commissioners accountable for the quality of care that they provide for patients. BIVDA believes that it is important that quality standards should be mandatory rather than aspirational for commissioners and providers of NHS care to ensure that a minimum level of care is achieved for all patients.

NICE plans to develop 150 quality standards over the next five years, and it will be important that the standards incentivise early

and accurate diagnosis as a key part of the care pathway. Early diagnosis and treatment not only improves patient outcomes but can also help to deliver savings for the NHS by adapting patient pathways and enabling earlier intervention. This is key in light of the savings that are required in the NHS.

The development of quality standards should be as swift as possible to support pathfinder consortia in their commissioning of services. BIVDA will continue to engage in the development of quality standards to ensure that they are produced in a timely manner and recognise the important role of high quality diagnosis in the care pathway.



“Cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer among women under 35 in the UK, causing approximately 1,000 deaths each year”

IVD's In Action - BIVDA member Roche have new HPV test to identify women in the UK at the highest risk for cervical cancer.



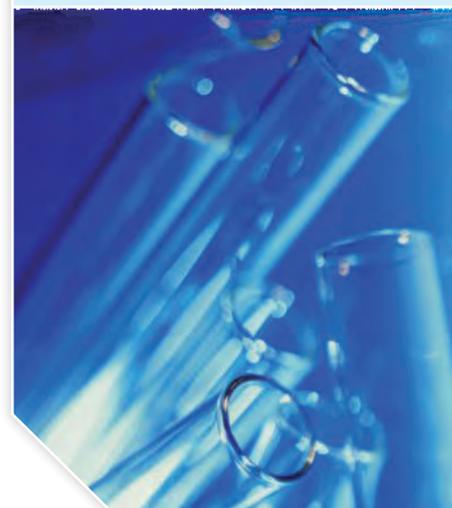
According to the NHS Cancer Screening Programme, cervical cancer is the most common form of cancer among women under 35 in the UK, causing approximately 1,000 deaths each year. Persistent infection with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is its principal cause, but a test that can identify those women with the highest-risk forms of HPV could improve the standard of care in the UK by enabling earlier detection of cervical cancer.

IVD's in Action

“The cobas HPV test has a detection rate greater than the use of pap tests alone, underscoring the potential for an innovative diagnostic test to specifically identify those women at highest risk of cervical disease, and catch cancer earlier”

As well as saving expenditure, our solutions bring benefits to patients in terms of outcome or by improving the patient's experience. Examples of these improvements include minimising inconvenience to individuals' lives or removing the need for more invasive tests such as colonoscopy. BIVDA member companies have technologies to cover improvements to healthcare both in community and hospital settings. The technologies also span a range of clinical priorities, with many focussed on better ways to manage long term chronic disease.

IVD's have a big part to play in allowing earlier diagnosis, reduced procedure times, less invasive treatment options, lower infection rates and shorter hospital stays. These all mean quicker rehabilitation and return to health with less cost to the NHS.



BIVDA

Please don't hesitate to contact the Director General, Doris-Ann Williams if you would like any further information about any of the aspects of this issue or about *in vitro* diagnostics in general. She is always more than willing to visit you in Westminster.

British In Vitro Diagnostics Association · 1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BT
Telephone: 020 7957 4633 · Fax: 020 7957 4644 · Email: enquiries@bivda.co.uk · Website: www.bivda.co.uk