

# Health Estate

JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING AND ESTATE MANAGEMENT



**Engineering ethics discussed**  
**Bringing a military approach to training**  
**Waste management –**  
**Scottish experience outlined**



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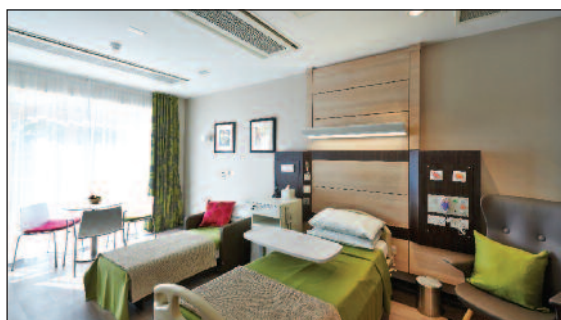


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There are moves in the US to re-evaluate planning policies to ensure that local environments are built that promote healthy living.

## Institute to lead healthcare BIM group

Comment

The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) document, *Industrial strategy: government and industry in partnership: Building Modelling*, published in 2012, describes Building Information Modelling (BIM) as 'a collaborative way of working, underpinned by the digital technologies which unlock more efficient methods of designing, creating, and maintaining our assets'.

It adds that 'BIM' – which some have described as 'a game-changer' for the construction sector – 'embeds key product and asset data and a three-dimensional computer model that can be used for effective management of information throughout a project lifecycle – from earliest concept through to operation'.

As many readers will know, in line its

2011 Construction Strategy – a central ambition of which was to reduce costs in publicly-funded construction schemes – the Government has mandated the use of BIM to Level 2 on centrally funded projects by 2016. News that IHEEM is to lead the Core Group of the newly-formed BIM4Health Group (see page 6) – recently established to raise awareness of Health BIM across the healthcare sector – is thus very welcome.

Although BIM's benefits have been well-publicised, implementation has so far been patchy, and one of the Group's key aims will be to 'ensure that the healthcare sector understands the risks and dangers of doing nothing'. Valuably, it will also seek to provide guidance on 'how to get ready for Level 2', and to reflect members' concerns and interests back to the BIM Task Group and

the registered BIM4 Groups. This is another example of the Institute seeking to both lead and contribute to important policy affecting the built estate, and the members of the Core Group are keen to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible in their work.

The BIS strategy document says the initial estimated savings of widespread BIM adoption to UK construction and its clients could be as much as £2 bn per annum, so, alongside the many practical benefits the process's use in planning, operating, and managing healthcare buildings can bring, there are equally some convincing financial reasons for embracing it.

Jonathan Baillie  
Editor

# Health Sector News

## NHS reforms 'damaging and distracting'

A major assessment of the coalition government's record on NHS reform by The King's Fund concludes that the upheaval caused by the Health and Social Care Act has been 'damaging and distracting'.

The new report, *The NHS under the coalition government: Part one: NHS reform*, highlights 'some positive developments as a result of the Act', including closer GP involvement in commissioning services, giving local authorities responsibility for public health, and the establishment of Health and Wellbeing boards. However, it criticises the decision to implement complex organisational changes 'at a time when the NHS should have been focused on tackling growing pressures on services and an unprecedented funding squeeze'.

Other key findings are that:

- an 'unwieldy structure' has emerged, 'with leadership fractured between several national bodies', a 'bewilderingly complex' regulatory system, and 'a strategic vacuum in place of the system leadership previously provided by strategic health authorities';

- while claims of widespread privatisation are 'exaggerated', the emphasis on competition has resulted in 'greater complexity and uncertainty about when contracts should be put out to tender';
- despite the intention to devolve decision-making and reduce political interference, since the Act's implementation there has been 'regular ministerial intervention and a continued focus on targets';
- responsibility for commissioning has been fragmented between different bodies, and NHS England has been slow to establish itself, 'weighed down' by its wide-ranging responsibilities;
- although not an explicit aim of the original reforms, progress has been made in developing integrated care.

The King's Fund says the report 'highlights a significant change in the coalition's approach to the NHS', with the second half of the parliament having seen 'a welcome shift away from the technocratic changes contained in the Health and Social Care



Act to concentrate on safety and quality of care'. It says: 'Ministers have turned their attention away from competition and choice to focus on regulation and transparent reporting of performance data to improve care standards.'

The report argues that the next government 'should build on this'.

Chris Ham, CEO of The King's Fund (pictured), said: "Historians will not be kind in their assessment of the coalition government's record on NHS reform. The first three years were wasted on major organisational changes when the NHS should have been concentrating on growing financial and service pressures – this was a strategic error. Only latterly has the government adopted a more positive focus on improving patient care and achieving closer integration of services. Politicians should be wary of ever again embarking on such a sweeping and complicated reorganisation of the NHS."

A second report, focusing on NHS finances and performance, will be published this month.

## Cover Story

### Entertaining patients, generating revenue

When considering or planning bedhead-positioned patient entertainment solutions, Airwave says it 'has all the bases covered' – with a wide range of medical wall arms, televisions, touchscreens, and interactive services – all designed to improve the patient's well-being and experience.

Designed for healthcare interiors, the Philips Hospital Ready TV range reportedly provides 'the ultimate in patient viewing', by incorporating 'great design and dedicated features'. These include centralised management, menu locking, a headphone socket, wipe-clean multiple IR coding remote controls for multi-bed wards, nurse call compatibility, and even MyChoice 'Pay-TV' technology to give hospitals the opportunity to install a pay mechanism and generate local revenue.

Airwave said: "MyChoice gives patients the freedom to view premium content

while allowing healthcare facilities to generate revenue simply by selling PIN codes. With MyChoice they can offer different content packages to patients (e.g. selected channels; Pay-TV channels, and 'Smart TV' etc.), and create a win-win situation – patients can have a wider choice of content, and healthcare facilities can create additional revenues. MyChoice is a cost-effective solution, and a logical step for healthcare facilities looking for additional ways to provide patient value and comfort."

The stylish Philips white remote controls have a top surface membrane that is easily cleanable and wipeable with alcohol. Airwave added: "The Philips multi-code remote function means the Hospital Ready televisions are perfect for use in multi-bedded bays, since each is paired with a remote control to prevent one patient controlling another's set."



Airwave Healthcare.  
Airwave Europe Ltd  
Lime Place, Rosier Business Park,  
Billingshurst, West Sussex  
RH14 9DE  
Tel: 0845 555 1212  
Email: Phil.Edwardes@airwave.tv