United Kingdom

Potential business figures on healthcare in 5 years: The Government is committed to delivering a National Health Service that offers all its citizens the safe, compassionate and high quality healthcare. Spending will continue to increase in real terms every year and the NHS will receive £10 billion more per year above inflation by 2020-21 than in 2014-15. However, the NHS in England is to get an extra £20bn a year by 2023.

Typical buyer of health services: The NHS is an organization established by Parliament with four separate administrations: NHS England, NHS Scotland, NHS Wales, and HSC Northern Ireland. NHS is required to ensure that comprehensive health and care services are available to all, where there is clinical need, and regardless of an individual’s ability to pay. Private healthcare is an alternative: around 10% of the total healthcare provided privately; the NHS also outsources its services to private sector; within private medical scheme referral of patient to private healthcare usually via the NHS GP.

Governmental or legislative climate to support new services/innovations on health: Accelerated Access Collaborative AAC: single front door for innovators, covering e.g. NHS Test Beds, The AHSN Network (15 across UK) Pathway transformation fund, SBRI Healthcare, NHS Innovation Accelerator.

Typical buying and/or acceptance process in the country for new solutions: Between 85% and 90% of the MedTech market is supplied by imports, a percentage that rising demand has boosted in recent years. Digital health is a fast growing industry and it has great potential to improve access to healthcare. It is central to the delivery of the Government’s NHS policy agenda and is a key enabler for implementing the NHS Long Term Plan. For companies, presence in the market is crucial, either via distributor or own presence. Several NHS supplier frameworks for NHS preferred suppliers, e.g. GP IT Futures, or NHS Supply Chain NHSSC for products and consumables. Companies can also sell directly to local NHS Trusts or CCGs.

Opportunities for Finland: Digitized health systems, Mental health, Senior care, Personalised Health, Cancer diagnosis and care, Preventive care, Corporate wellness.

Regulation & Reimbursement environment: Most important regulators: Care quality Commission CQC , NICE’s Medical Technologies Evaluation Programme, NHSX (former NHS Digital), HTS (Human Tissue Authority) , MHRA.

Trends & strategy: A key aspect of the transition to personalised health & care is the emergence of digital health solutions. The NHS is increasingly looking for patient empowerment solutions, and for how to tackle mental health and dementia issues.