

Supplier Assurance – Health Workforce

We operate an internal Supplier Assurance Function (SAF) to provide us with assurance that framework suppliers are fulfilling their contractual obligations, including NHS Employment Check Standards, before placing candidates.

We complete health assurance inspections across a minimum of 100 suppliers per year.

Providing evidence to NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHS E/I) on our health assurance process formed part of gaining approved framework status for all of our health workforce framework agreements:

- RM959: Allied Health Professionals, Health Science and Emergency Services
- RM971: Non Medical Non Clinical (NMNC)
- RM3711: Multidisciplinary Temporary Healthcare Personnel
- RM6160: Non-Clinical Temporary and Fixed term staff (NCS)
- RM6158: Flexible Resource Pool – Staff Bank

The supplier assurance programme

Each supplier assurance inspection tests:

- the processes and controls suppliers have in place to enable overall provision of compliant workers
- the effectiveness of the controls through testing a selection of worker files

To deliver this a comprehensive test pack is used to test that:

- the 6 NHS Employers Check Standards are in use
- appropriate workers are placed
- compliance is maintained for the lifetime of bookings
- any change in a worker's status is managed appropriately
- the customer is informed of the compliance of the worker before employment begins

The supplier's performance is assessed under each control area and a conclusion is made based on test results.

If it is identified during the inspection that the supplier has inadequate processes and controls in place, the framework management team will establish an action plan with the supplier to ensure that the appropriate controls are in place for the future.

If there are systemic control failures, or the supplier does not engage with us on the action plan, the supplier may be suspended or terminated from the relevant framework agreement(s).

We are committed to working with suppliers to ensure they have adequate controls in place.

In paragraph 8.5 of NHS E/I [Agency Rules document](#), NHS E/I reminds trusts of their ultimate responsibility to ensure all agency workers engaged in

employment at their organisation comply with the standard NHS Employment Checks.

By sourcing temporary workers through a Workforce Alliance framework agreement, customers have a greater level of assurance that temporary workers are supplied in accordance with the NHS Employment Check Standards. Please note though that this does not transfer liability or overarching responsibility for the compliance of workers.

We recommend that customers request completion of an Assignment Checklist by the agency prior to each placement.

A copy of the assignment checklist is available in the documents section for each of our approved frameworks on the CCS [website](#).

We support the [SAFERjobs](#) initiative

We're here to help

The Non Clinical Staffing deal can help ensure:

- full transparency of all costs, including the mark-up rate
- fair terms and conditions
- compliance with employment check standards

Find out more about getting started:

W *[Non Clinical Temporary and Fixed Term Staff](#)*

T 0345 410 2222

E info@crowcommercial.gov.uk

NHS Commercial Solutions (NHSCS)

NHSCS.agency@nhs.net

www.commercialsolutions-sec.nhs.uk

East of England NHS Collaborative Procurement Hub (EoE CPH)

workforce@eoecph.nhs.uk

www.eoecph.nhs.uk

NHS London Procurement Partnership (LPP)

lppagency@lpp.nhs.uk

www.lpp.nhs.uk

NHS North of England Commercial Procurement Collaborative (NOE CPC)

enquiries@noecpc.nhs.uk

www.noecpc.nhs.uk

