

Health Bill Report Stage Amendments - Protecting Specialised Services

These amendments do not block reform. They ensure that if commissioning responsibility for a specialised service transfers to ICBs, it remains safe, equitable, nationally coordinated and accountable.

Amendment 103: Impact Assessment & National Service Frameworks

Requires an impact assessment before transferring commissioning responsibility, and a national framework for any service that transfers.

Amendment 104: National Assurance

Requires the Secretary of State to assess ICB performance on specialised services within existing statutory reporting.

New Clause 160: Annual Parliamentary Report

Requires an annual report to Parliament on the commissioning and performance of specialised services transferred to ICBs, so Parliament can track their performance.

Amendment 105: Diagnosis Connect and the Single Patient Record

Ensures Single Patient Record regulations can support consent-based referral into approved charities providing condition-specific support - connecting patients to help as soon as they are diagnosed.

For more information contact Spinal Injuries Association's Public Affairs Team, campaigning@spinal.co.uk

Amendment 103: Impact Assessment & National Service Frameworks

Clause 12, page 9, leave out lines 33 to 39 and insert—

“(2) Before prescribing a service or facility under subsection (1)(b), the Secretary of State must publish an assessment of the likely impact of such a prescription on—

- (a) patient safety;
- (b) clinical outcomes;
- (c) equality of access to services;
- (d) workforce capacity and specialist expertise;
- (e) service sustainability; and
- (f) geographical variation in access to, and outcomes from, services.

(2A) The Secretary of State must lay the assessment under subsection (2) before both Houses of Parliament.

(2B) In deciding whether it would be appropriate to prescribe a service or facility under subsection (1)(b), the Secretary of State must have regard to the assessment published under subsection (2).

(2C) Where regulations made under subsection (1)(b) prescribe a service or facility for commissioning other than by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State must publish and maintain a national service framework for that service or facility.

(2D) A framework under subsection (2C) must include provision relating to—

- (a) service standards;
- (b) care pathways;
- (c) workforce requirements;
- (d) rehabilitation and long-term follow-up;
- (e) collection and publication of outcome data;
- (f) coordination between specialist, community and neighbourhood services; and
- (g) coordination of care for persons receiving treatment through multiple clinical pathways.”

Member's Explanatory Statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to publish an impact assessment before they make a decision to prescribe a service or facility under subsection (1)(b) of section 3B of the National Health Service Act 2006 and maintain a national service framework for any specialised service no longer commissioned directly by the Secretary of State.

Amendment 104: National Assurance

Clause 20, page 15, line 28, at end insert—

“(4) In conducting a performance assessment under this section, the Secretary of State must assess the discharge by an integrated care board of any functions relating to specialised services.

(5) An assessment under subsection (4) must consider—

- (a) patient outcomes;
- (b) access to services;
- (c) compliance with national service specifications;
- (d) workforce capacity;
- (e) service sustainability; and
- (f) geographical variation in access to, and outcomes from, services.

(6) The report published under subsection (3) must include a summary of the assessments undertaken under subsections (4) and (5).”

Member's Explanatory Statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to undertake and publish a national assessment of the performance of integrated care boards in relation to specialised service

NC160: Annual Parliamentary Report

To move the following Clause—

“Annual report on specialised services

(1) Within 12 months of the passage of this Act, and every 12 months thereafter, the Secretary of State must publish a report on the commissioning and performance of specialised services commissioned by integrated care boards.

(2) A report under subsection (1) must include information relating to—

- (a) patient outcomes;
- (b) access to services;
- (c) waiting times;
- (d) workforce capacity;
- (e) service sustainability;
- (f) geographical variation in services;
- (g) compliance with national service specifications; and
- (h) arrangements for the coordination of specialist, community and neighbourhood care.

(3) A report under subsection (1) must be laid before both Houses of Parliament.”

Member's Explanatory Statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to publish an annual report on specialised services commissioned by integrated care boards.

105: Diagnosis Connect and the Single Patient Record

Clause 51, page 36, line 8, at end insert—

“(ba) enabling a patient, following diagnosis of a health condition, to consent to the sharing of such information as is necessary for the purpose of enabling the organisation to offer or provide condition-specific support to the patient with an approved voluntary, community or charitable organisation providing condition-specific support services;

(bb) facilitating referral, where consent has been provided, to such an organisation under subsection (ba);”

Member's Explanatory Statement

This amendment would ensure that regulations establishing the Single Patient Record may include provision enabling patients, following diagnosis, to consent to referral and information sharing with approved voluntary, community and charitable organisations providing condition-specific support services.

About SIA

The Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) is the leading national charity dedicated to supporting over 105,000 individuals affected by spinal cord injury (SCI) across the UK. Our mission is to be the expert guiding voice for life after spinal cord injury, ensuring that everyone touched by SCI can lead a fulfilled life.

For more information contact Spinal Injuries Association’s Public Affairs Team, campaigning@spinal.co.uk

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