

CASE STUDY 5

ASSESSMENT OF THE NHS NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Objectives

This survey, Medix's seventh on the topic, was commissioned by the *British Journal of Healthcare Computing and Information Management*, *Computer Weekly*, *E-Health Insider*, *The Guardian* and *GP* to investigate the views of doctors in England about the National Programme for IT (NPfIT). NPfIT, the NHS's £12.4bn computer project, is being implemented by the Department of Health agency, NHS Connecting for Health.

Methodology

The study was conducted online with 1,026 respondents, constituting over 1% of doctors practicing in England and representing a balanced range of specialities.

Results

The findings confirmed earlier Medix findings that a majority of doctors believes that NPfIT has the potential to benefit clinical care. However, it also confirmed that doctors are increasingly critical of NPfIT – especially of its costs and how it is being implemented, especially the lack of consultation with the medical profession. A major concern is risk to the confidentiality of patient records.

We have co-sponsored several Medix surveys on NPfIT and have been delighted with the weight and quality of response, the careful attention to detail, the objectivity of analysis and the presentation of findings.

Tony Collins – Executive Editor, Computer Weekly

A safe and efficient NHS depends on effective use of IT. The Medix NPfIT studies are playing a vital role in ensuring that the voice of doctors, the real users of the new systems, is heard and heard clearly.

Martyn Thomas – software engineer and Visiting Professor, Oxford University

The Medix results made our lead story, giving an accurate insight into doctors' views - aware of the potential benefits of a national patient record, but concerned about confidentiality. As usual, Medix delivered on time.

John Carvel, Social Affairs Editor, The Guardian.

As well as providing a consistent picture of the central NPfIT issues, Medix gets valuable feedback on topical themes. Its ability to reach a broad sample of the medical profession, ask them interesting questions and give sharp analysis is unrivalled.

Jon Hoeksma – Editor, E-Health Insider (2006 Technology Journalist of the Year)