

What does this unique partnership between Virtualstock and NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS) mean for NHS Providers and Suppliers?

The Edge4Health NHS roll-out will soon be underway following the successful conclusion of a comprehensive trust pilot. The platform is delivered in partnership by Virtualstock and NHS SBS – a joint venture between the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Sopra Steria.

The technology will be an integral part of the service NHS SBS already provides to its existing NHS clients (currently around 40% of NHS provider trusts). The collaboration between Virtualstock and NHS SBS is about ensuring that Edge4Health is the de facto standard for digital procurement in the NHS.

Together, they are set to transform procurement across the NHS.

The Edge4Health is a digital network connecting healthcare buyers and sellers across the UK with the objective of driving NHS-wide efficiency and savings, whilst increasing revenue opportunities for Suppliers.

Created by Virtualstock and based on a tried and tested retail model, it has now been developed especially for healthcare. This partnership between Virtualstock and NHS SBS means that the Edge4Health is now rolling out to Trusts across the UK and suppliers are joining the platform quickly in order to connect and transact with them.

How does it work?

Suppliers upload their entire product catalogue just once, making their range immediately discoverable to all connected providers. Clear photos and comprehensive product information improves the purchasing experience for requisitioners, while provision of individual price files for each NHS provider allows custom pricing agreements to be maintained on the platform. Data accuracy from order to invoice is ensured, enabling more reliable, prompter invoice matching and payment.

For Trusts, multiple procurement processes and systems are streamlined and data quality is ensured via GS1 accreditation (GTIN checking and GDSN integration) – ultimately resulting in greater efficiency, cost savings and improvements to patient safety.

The Edge4Health is designed to be easy to implement, working with existing legacy systems, and intuitive to use, with a retail-style interface and a single point of entry for multiple systems. It provides end-to-end supply chain visibility and full compliance.

“Our vision of creating a comprehensive, national product data ecosystem for the NHS is becoming a reality. We are committed to putting data quality and efficient ordering at the heart of procurement systems, resulting in greater efficiency savings and patient safety.”

James Thirkill, Vice President and General Manager, Healthcare, Virtualstock

“Digital transformation is vital across the NHS. From state-of-the-art surgery and diagnostics to procurement. Efficient procurement, such as delivered by The Edge4Health will free up time, avoid duplication and, ultimately, help the NHS to run as smoothly as possible.”

John Neilson, CEO, NHS SBS

To find out more and to join our growing community of healthcare providers and suppliers, visit www.edge4health.co.uk or email us at info@edge4health.co.uk