

April MoD healthcare related contracts worth £60m by Chris Graham

The lion's share of MoD contracts awarded to UK firms in May went to hospital and health services. Four separate contracts won by NHS hospital trusts for health care and associated services and supplies amounted to more than £28 million.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, based at James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, North East England, topped the list of health care awards with an £8.1m contract from GB-Glasgow to provide secondary healthcare for military personnel for two years, 2011 to 2013. The service offers a ten-week Referral to Treatment (RTT) pathway for all elective care.

A similar £7.1m contract on the same terms has gone to Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust at Peterborough City Hospital. The contract figure is £7,155,500. Close behind with a two-year contract for secondary healthcare for military personnel is the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Fareham, Hants, with a contract worth £7,145,618. The Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust likewise has gained a two-year contract for medical hospital services worth £6,075,000.

An even bigger contract from GB-Glasgow for £16m for medical hospital services has been won by the Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Camberley, Surrey. Again, this provides inclusive, safe and patient-focused ten-week referral to treatment (RTT) pathway for the full remit of inpatient and outpatient elective care routinely delivered by the acute sector, excluding all non-elective care. Total value of the contract is £16,058,781. The nearby Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Camberley, has won a contract for £1,012,500 on similar terms to provide the full range of in-patient and out-patient elective care in relation to maxillo-facial surgery, oral surgery and orthognathic/orthodontic services. Again, all non-elective care is excluded.

Another MoD health contract has gone to Birmingham City University for domestic accommodation to be used by long-term military students attending courses in Birmingham as part of the Defence School of Healthcare Studies, Birmingham. This is worth £2,894,412.

Anteon Ltd, Peterborough, has been awarded a contract by GB-Bath for £1.4m to provide medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and personal care products. GB-Bath has awarded BioMerieux UK Ltd of Basingstoke, Hants, a contract worth £180,000 for blood analysers. This is to supply the Medical & General Supplies Project team (M&GS) which is part of the Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) Organisation. Its role is to provide medical equipment and associated support to the UK armed forces.

A £173,150 contract for test machines and apparatus for testing and measuring has been awarded by GB-Bath, again for M&GS, to Ultramedic Ltd, Liverpool. M&GS may have a future one-off requirement for a range of electro-medical test equipment comprising the following: bench top electrical safety analysers, defibrillator analysers and patient simulators. A contract for electro-medical test equipment worth £154,400 has gone to Seaward Electronic Ltd, Peterlee, County Durham.

Cardiff University has gained a contract worth £95,000 from GB-Salisbury to carry out serology assays of serum samples. Cardiff University has also been awarded a contract worth £94,920 for research laboratory services. Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (DSTL) of Porton Down, Salisbury, requires the service to perform serology assays to characterise the PA, LF and EF-specific IgG antibody responses of volunteers immunised with the UK licensed anthrax vaccine. This is to be followed directly by PA and LF epitope mapping and affinity maturation studies using specific assays developed by Cardiff University.

Prometheus Medical Ltd, Hope under Dinmore near Leominster in Herefordshire, has gained a contract worth £65,075 to supply sterile single-use needles. The MoD specifies Intraosseous Infusion Size Small (3-39KG) fuw manual or powered EZ-IO device sterile single-use pack of 5x200. Another Hope under

Dinmore firm, Prometheus Medical Ltd, has won a similar contract for sterile needles worth £32,537.50.

Primary Care Education LLP, Caversham, Reading has gained a contract worth £55,000 to provide education and training services for the Joint Medical Command (JMC), which is responsible for the training and continual professional development of military General Practitioners (GPs) who have a requirement to maintain their professional currency. As part of its existing GP training programme, the JMC has a requirement for relevant developments in clinical evidence, guidelines and best practice in primary care to be identified, synthesised, and presented in the form of a military GP update course. A minimum of two one-day courses will be required each year, with the option for a third. The courses will be delivered at military venues to audiences of approximately 50 students. The contract covers a two-year period from 01 April 2011 until 31 March 2013, with an option to extend until 31 March 2014.

Abbott Diagnostics Ltd, Maidenhead, Berkshire, has won a contract worth an exact £20,773.11 for cartridge blood analysis for use with ISTAT, a system of point-of-care testing that provides test results within minutes. Millstream (Production Engineering) Ltd, Morden, Surrey, has won a two-month contract worth £29,289 excluding VAT from GB-Bath to supply stretchers for Medical & General Supplies (M&GS).