**Medical - Services**

**NHS**
*National Health Service Act 1946*

*Launched in 1948 by Clement Atlee’s Labour government. Aneurin Bevan is founder of NHS.*

*He cited 3 core principles that NHS should adhere to: that is meet the needs of everyone; that it be free at the point of delivery; that it be based on clinical need, not ability to pay.*

*NHS constitution:
1-to provide a comprehensive range of services available to all;
2-access based on clinical need not ability to pay;
3-to aspire to the highest standards to excellence and professionalism;
4-to reflect the needs and preferences of patients, their families and carers;
5-to work across organizational boundaries and in partnership with other organisations in their interests of patients;
6-to provide best value for taxpayer’s money and the most effective fair and sustainable use of finite resources;
7-accountable to the public communities and patients.*

**Policy Making and Centralised Planning**
*Andrew Lansley is the Secretary of State of Health.*

*NHS Act 2006 section 1: requires the Sec of State to promote ‘a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement (a) in the physical and mental health of the people of England, and (b) in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness’*

*Section 3(1) the Secretary of State must provide to such extent as he considers necessary to meet reasonable requirements.*

*Note the distinction between Healthcare Policy (formulated by the Dept of Health) and operational aspects (carried out by the NHS Executive.*

**Supervision, Inspection and Regulation**
*Care Quality Commission. Been heavily criticised with regards to how effective its role is in Panorama program.*

**Service Commissioners**
*Strategic Health Authorities- role is to implement health services. Rights and duties to patients are now contained in the NHS Constitution. No new legal rights but does consolidate and provides legitimacy to challenges.*

*Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) – NHS Act 2006- s.18: 24 PCTs are responsible for all medical provisions within a local area; both Primary and Secondary Care (Ambulance Service, hospital care). PCTs are responsible for 80% of total NHS budget. Service can be delegate to private providers.*

*Special health authorities- SpHA have a statutory responsibility to hold the PCTs and the Trusts to account with the overall policy to monitor and improve the quality of healthcare. They are not based on regions or areas. There is a duty to consult the public in this respect (s.242 NHS Act 2006). These bodies are accountable to the Secretary of State and then to Parliament. They are also subject to legal challenges specifically judicial review actions.*

*Social Services departments – responsible for social care as opposed to health care like the above.*

**Health Care Providers**
*Primary carers/Secondary care*

*NHS Trusts*

*Foundation Trusts – run by board of governors, which include patients.*

*Care Trusts*

*GPS*

*Mental Health Trusts*

*Ambulance Trusts*

**The Future: Health and Social Care Bill**
*NHS White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS published in July 2010 proposes one of the most significant reorganization of the NHS in its history.*

*The proposals include the abolition of all PCTs and SHAs to fulfill the Government’s wish to reduce bureaucracy by shifting power from the centralized agencies to GPs and patients.*

*Andrew Lansley, the Secretary of State outlined the plan for all NHS trusts to become a foundation trust. He re-emphasized the basic tenants of the NHS as being: ensuring that Patients are at the centre of the NHS; changing the emphasis of measurement to clinical outcomes; empowering health professionals, in particular GPs.*

*By April 2012, the White Paper states that the following should be accomplished: an Independent NHS Commissioning Board is established; new local authority health and well-being boards are created; the establishment of a Monitor as an economic regulator of NHS services. The (somewhat ambitious) implementation deadline is April 2013.*