

Qr476: NHS National Programme for IT (NPfIT)

***A survey conducted by Medix UK plc —
quantitative results***

Sponsored by the Department of Health (the National Programme for IT) and
by *Computer Weekly*

February 2004

Comparison with earlier Medix surveys

Medix surveys Qr265, Qr354 and Qr476: doctors' views on NPfIT

		Qr265 Feb 2003	Qr354 June 2003	Qr476 Feb 2004
<i>How much information?</i>	Little/none	94%	94%	77%
<i>Likely effect on clinical care?</i>	An improvement	60%	60%	63%
<i>Likely effect on your working life?</i>	An improvement	53%	52%	53%
<i>An important NHS priority?</i>	Yes	74%	69%	75%
<i>Is focus on the right projects?</i>				
(a) <i>E-booking</i>	Yes	n/a	38%	35%
(b) <i>Care records</i>	Yes	n/a	80%	82%
(c) <i>E-prescriptions</i>	Yes	n/a	58%	59%
<i>How much consultation with you?</i>	Inadequate/none	88%	91%	86%
<i>Is consultation with you important?</i>	Yes	n/a	85%	88%
<i>Is working practice alignment important?</i>	Yes	n/a	87%	87%
<i>What is your likely level of support?</i>	Fairly/very enthusiastic	n/a	n/a	66%

NOTE: n/a — question not asked in this survey

History

Started:	30/01/2004 17:21
Finished:	03/02/2004 14:51
Duration:	4 days
Responded:	1026
Deferred:	57
Refused:	21
Offered to:	1104
Refusal Rate:	2%
Acceptance Rate:	93%

Results

Q1 How much information have you had about NPfIT?

Response (Qn4)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
A lot of information	31	3%	19	4%	12	2%
Some information	192	19%	103	20%	89	17%
Not much information	277	27%	160	32%	117	23%
No information but I have heard of it	249	24%	115	23%	134	26%
Only via earlier Medix survey(s)	122	12%	44	9%	78	15%
This is the first I have heard of it	147	14%	65	13%	82	16%

Q2 How far in advance would you wish to receive detailed information about how the Programme will work as it affects you?

Response (Qn5)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
As much as practicable now	457	45%	218	43%	239	47%
More than 3 years in advance of go-live in my area	29	3%	16	3%	13	3%
1 to 3 years in advance of go-live in my area	194	19%	107	21%	87	17%
6 to 12 months in advance of go-live in my area	179	18%	102	20%	77	15%
3 to 6 months in advance of go-live in my area	102	10%	44	9%	58	11%
Less than 3 months in advance of go-live in my area	40	4%	12	2%	28	5%
Unlikely to be interested	13	1%	4	1%	9	2%
Other	4	0%	2	0%	2	0%

Q3 What effect is NPfIT likely to have on clinical care?

Response (Qn7)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Significant improvement	291	29%	111	22%	180	35%
Slight improvement	349	34%	179	35%	170	33%
No difference	122	12%	72	14%	50	10%
Slight worsening	40	4%	30	6%	10	2%
Significant worsening	25	2%	17	3%	8	2%
Unsure	192	19%	97	19%	95	19%

Q4 What effect is NPfIT likely to have on your working life?

Response (Qn8)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Significant improvement	230	23%	80	16%	150	29%
Slight improvement	307	30%	144	29%	163	32%
No difference	85	8%	37	7%	48	9%
Slight worsening	110	11%	75	15%	35	7%
Significant worsening	75	7%	59	12%	16	3%
Not applicable	7	1%	3	1%	4	1%
Unsure	204	20%	107	21%	97	19%

Q5 Is NPfIT an important priority for the NHS?

Response (Qn9)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very important	294	29%	118	23%	176	34%
Important	473	46%	237	47%	236	46%
Not important	103	10%	65	13%	38	7%
Unnecessary	40	4%	28	6%	12	2%
Unsure	109	11%	57	11%	52	10%

Q6 Is NPfIT focused on the right projects?

None	N	1 Not at all important	2	3	4	5 Very important	Unsure
6a Electronic appointment booking:	1021	147 14%	213 21%	241 24%	218 21%	139 14%	63 6%
6b Integrated care records:	1020	16 2%	25 2%	94 9%	197 19%	639 63%	49 5%
6c Electronic prescriptions:	1018	43 4%	83 8%	229 22%	302 30%	292 29%	69 7%

Q7 Is the £2.3 billion likely to be a good use of resources?

Response (Qn14)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	320	31%	132	26%	188	37%
No	302	30%	175	35%	127	25%
Unsure	395	39%	198	39%	197	38%

Q8 Is the NHS right to outsource much of NPfIT to large commercial suppliers?

Response (Qn15)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	406	40%	197	39%	209	41%
No	291	29%	143	28%	148	29%
Unsure	317	31%	163	32%	154	30%

Q9 What consultation has there been with you personally about NPfIT?

Response (Qn16)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
More than adequate	9	1%	6	1%	3	1%
Adequate	30	3%	10	2%	20	4%
Barely adequate	78	8%	39	8%	39	8%
Inadequate	115	11%	60	12%	55	11%
None	761	75%	375	74%	386	75%
Unsure	24	2%	14	3%	10	2%

Q10 How important is consultation about the NPfIT with individual practising clinicians?

Response (Qn17)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very important	474	47%	232	46%	242	47%
Important	413	41%	202	40%	211	41%
Neither important nor unimportant	59	6%	29	6%	30	6%
Unimportant	13	1%	9	2%	4	1%
Very unimportant	23	2%	13	3%	10	2%
Unsure	34	3%	19	4%	15	3%

Q11 How much time in the immediate future would you be prepared to make available to engage with NPfIT?

Response (Qn18)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
None	49	5%	32	6%	17	3%
Up to 2 hours per week	414	41%	174	35%	240	47%
Up to half a day per week	86	8%	30	6%	56	11%
More than half a day per week	30	3%	9	2%	21	4%
I'd like to but I haven't got time	304	30%	191	38%	113	22%
Unsure	133	13%	67	13%	66	13%

Q12 How important is the alignment of current local working practices with the NPfIT before it is introduced locally?

Response (Qn19)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very important	487	48%	255	51%	232	45%
Important	396	39%	181	36%	215	42%
Neither important nor unimportant	37	4%	19	4%	18	4%
Unimportant	13	1%	8	2%	5	1%
Very unimportant	15	1%	8	2%	7	1%
Unsure	69	7%	33	7%	36	7%

Q13 What is your likely level of support for NPfIT?

Response (Qn20)	All		GP		nonGP	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Very enthusiastic	179	18%	55	11%	124	24%
Fairly enthusiastic	489	48%	227	45%	262	51%
Barely enthusiastic	178	18%	119	24%	59	12%
Unenthusiastic	67	7%	42	8%	25	5%
I would not support it	22	2%	19	4%	3	1%
Unsure	81	8%	43	9%	38	7%

Analysis of responses to Q14

Q14 What IT project(s), if any, would you most like to see implemented in the NHS?				
	Total	%	Non GP	GP
Electronic Patient Record (EPR)	147	15%	99	48
ICR (access to a common EPR)	146	15%	62	84
Improved electronic communications	119	13%	37	82
Access to diagnostic results	92	10%	61	31
Electronic prescribing	50	5%	24	26
Standardised computer systems	41	4%	11	30
Patient held records	36	4%	13	23
Ensure current or new systems are adequate	35	4%	7	28
PACS	34	4%	34	
Electronic transfer of patient records	31	3%	1	30
Electronic appointment booking	26	3%	15	11
Ability to do audit	21	2%	16	5
Proper Training/support	19	2%	4	15
Mobile/hand-held computers	17	2%	14	3
Accurate coding	14	1%	4	10
Ensure security/confidentiality	14	1%	8	6
Improve existing/provide e-mail	13	1%	7	6
Make and use national databases	13	1%	13	
None	12	1%	1	11
Access to medical information online	9	1%	8	1
Ability to communicate with other agencies	8	1%	5	3
Facility for e-consultation/case discussion	7	1%	4	3
Chronic disease management systems	6	1%	5	1
Ensure adequate funding	6	1%	3	3
Broadband/faster access	5	1%	1	4
Medical education	5	1%	2	3
Care pathways	4	0%	4	
Occupational health records	3	0%	3	
Use voice recognition programmes	3	0%	3	
Concentrate on improving clinical services	2	0%	1	1
Consult doctors before implementation	2	0%		2
A & E systems	2	0%	2	
Telemedicine	2	0%	2	
Make systems specialty-specific	2	0%	2	
Ability to communicate electronically with patients	1	0%	1	
Promote stand-alone systems	1	0%		1
Remove politics	1	0%		1
Create register of violent patients	1	0%		1
PC for each consultant	1	0%	1	
Evaluate the programme first	1	0%	1	
Total	952			