

26 January 2006

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To: SHA Chief Executives  
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Acute Trust Chief Executives

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## **CHOOSE AND BOOK UPDATE**

1. I would like to record my thanks for all the hard work throughout the NHS on Choose and Book over the last few months. This letter provides further guidance on implementation.
2. The Indirectly Bookable Service (IBS) is working well in many parts of the NHS and is allowing more Local Health Communities to implement Choose and Book. In order to promote progress, Acute Trusts who are currently not able to implement an integrated PAS solution are expected to 'go live' with IBS in all specialties by the end of March 2006.
3. The requirement is for 90% of GP referrals (excluding GDP referrals) to be booked through Choose and Book by 31 March 2007. PCTs will need to prepare monthly trajectories that reflect this and Duncan Selbie will write separately with further guidance on how to submit these trajectories (and any further necessary clarification on the definition of GP referrals). The existing third incentive payment for PCTs for the early achievement of the 90% standard during 2006 (and by December 2006 at the latest) remains in place.
4. The 90% relates to integrated booking (i.e. not through IBS). There are however a small number of Trusts that for valid technical/commercial reasons will not be able to achieve a fully compliant integrated solution during 2006. These organisations will have explicit exemption agreed with NHS Connecting for Health (CfH) but will still need to achieve 90% via IBS.

*From the Office of the  
Director of Access, Margaret Edwards*



5. Further and ongoing information on Choose and Book is available on the Choose and Book website and in the monthly bulletin. They represent the primary sources of information and clarification for the NHS and can be found on <http://www.chooseandbook.nhs.uk/>. This month's issue of the bulletin reinforces the minimum criteria for the delivery of both choice and Choose and Book and contains details on dentistry and mental health.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Edwards'.

**MARGARET EDWARDS  
DIRECTOR OF ACCESS**