

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **Ground breaking training technology set to stimulate Practice Based Commissioning**

**LONDON, UK – June 19th 2009 – Humana Europe** today announced the launch of their Practice Based Commissioning Simulator, an interactive training system that uses predictive technology to help GPs and practice managers learn how to commission services more effectively.

Strategic commissioning is becoming increasingly important at a practice level in the current economic climate. The PBC Simulator combines hands-on learning, including role-play and business simulation, with advanced predictive technology in which the conditions and variables of Practice Based Commissioning are replicated through a computer simulation.

The simulator has been created by Humana with support from the NHS Alliance to inspire primary care clinicians and practice managers to improve health and cost outcomes through advanced PBC techniques. The training technology recognises that a highly developed commissioning strategy is vital to practices required to demonstrate patient satisfaction and a reduction in health inequalities amongst their local population.

Speaking about the importance of effective practice-based commissioning practices amongst primary care teams in delivering patient care, Dr Michael Dixon of the NHS Alliance said, “The onus is increasingly on GPs and practice managers to commission services in an intelligent way to ensure that they meet the health needs of their patients. By using the resources available to them wisely, GPs can empower their patients to live healthily and reduce their susceptibility to disease and in turn ensure that services reach those people with real need.”

Dr Peter Reader, who heads up the PBC programme at Humana Europe, commented on the thinking behind the development of the simulator: “We designed the PBC simulator with the particular skill-sets and experience of GPs and practice managers in mind. The aim of the simulator is to give them confidence to use these skills to commission effectively to strategic and long-term goals.

“Over the course of the simulator programme participants get to see the impact and outcomes of the decisions they make whilst building a greater understanding of the implications that practice based commissioning has on improving health outcomes.”

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

1. The Practice Based Commissioning Simulator was created by Humana in partnership with the Sweden-based BTS, a world leader in customised business simulations, and the NHS Alliance. The PBC Simulator combines hands-on learning, including role-play and business simulation, with advanced predictive technology in which the conditions and variables of Practice Based Commissioning are replicated in a computer simulated environment. Over the course of a day participants are given realistic scenarios that they are likely to encounter in their everyday work life, including managing patients and coping with operational constraints, and must work together to plan and commission services in a virtual environment that will improve the health of their local population over a four-year period.
2. Humana Europe delivers expert commissioning services and support to the NHS in England. We are recognised as leaders in designing, developing and implementing innovative programmes, tools and solutions to support Primary Care Trusts to commission

care in line with the health needs of their local populations. For more information please visit [www.humana.co.uk](http://www.humana.co.uk)