

NEWS RELEASE

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Humana Europe announces groundbreaking information network for commissioners

LONDON, UK – 11 June 2008 – Humana Europe has today announced the launch of a consultation exercise on an exciting new information network for NHS commissioners. The 'Commissioning Circle', part of Humana's Commissioning Institute, aims to provide an online learning community of those involved in the commissioning process, and will help them to build skills, lend expertise, share effective practices, and explore challenging new ideas.

The first phase of the groundbreaking project, to be launched at Humana Europe's World Class Mental Health Commissioning conference on 12 June, will allow potential users to propose ideas and outline their expectations via an online survey. The results of the consultation will help to finalise the content of the Commissioning Circle portal to ensure it is tailored to the demands and needs of modern NHS commissioners.

David Goldberg, director of Humana's Commissioning Institute, commented: "With an estimated number of 6,000 Commissioners across health and social care, there is real expertise in the NHS but this is not currently being communicated or shared widely. Our online Commissioning Circle project aims to

fill that gap by bringing professional knowledge together in one place and by providing resources to help improve commissioners' skills.

“For the first time, a large number of commissioners will be able to come together to share ideas, communicate best practice, and discover new resources to make tangible improvements to everyday commissioning practices.”

Humana presently envisages six components to the Commissioning Circle, although this will be amended in accordance with feedback:

- **A networking tool** – to share narratives, ideas, concerns and solutions
- **Commissioning NewsLine** – regularly updated news on commissioning-related policies and events
- **Library of effective practices** – a searchable database of case studies and demonstrations of effective commissioning
- **Distance learning** – providing online courses on finance, management and quality improvement
- **Job board** – postings of positions offered and sought

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Notes to editors:

1. The consultation on the Commissioning Circle is being launched at Humana Europe's 'World Class Mental Health Commissioning: From Vision to Practice' conference taking place on 12 June at the Royal Society in London. Following the event, a 10 minute video featuring the key highlights will be posted on the Commissioning Institute YouTube channel. For further information on the event, please visit:
<http://www.humana.co.uk/documents/WorldClassMentalHealthCommissioning.pdf>

The Commissioning Circle is an element of the Commissioning Institute programme, providing an online learning community of commissioners and others involved in the commissioning process. During the first phase, Humana Europe are consulting with those involved in the healthcare commissioning process to understand their views on how the Circle can best support and enable them to learn new skills and effective practices, and share ideas with others in the NHS. Individuals can take part in the consultation by visiting www.commissioning-circle.co.uk and completing the online survey.

2. The Commissioning Institute, established by Humana Europe, is an independent training and networking centre designed to promote learning and the sharing of effective practices in the commissioning of health and social services. All individuals involved in the commissioning of services are welcome to participate. Further information can be found at www.commissioning-institute.co.uk
3. Humana Europe is a provider of integrated commissioning services and support to NHS Primary Care Trusts. Humana Europe is able to provide expert guidance, tools, and innovative solutions to support PCTs, providers, and stakeholders in delivering services that best meet the health needs of the individual. They are a clinician-led organisation with expertise in health service design, data and knowledge management, contracting, performance management, communications and engagement, and motivational programmes that promote healthy behaviour. Further information can be found at www.humana.co.uk