November 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of the Fraudulent Times

This newsletter has been designed to highlight areas of fraud within the NHS and to help you understand why we need to combat it effectively. By raising awareness of fraud cases, it will help you to identify what fraud is and where it is most likely to occur. As always, I hope that you will find our newsletter a useful and interesting read. We value feedback on the content so if you have any comments or suggestions for topics in future editions, please email these to us at the address at the bottom of the page.

Craig Bevan-Davies
Assistant Director of Anti-Crime Services

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TOP NEWS

NHS Fraudster swiped £279k worth of medical kit and sold it back to the same hospital.

A former NHS employee has been found guilty of fraud after medical kits that were stolen from the hospital where he worked were sold back to the hospital.

Between October 2016 and September 2019, the suspect stole £279,000 worth of medical equipment from the operating theatre stock rooms, where he worked as the material management assistant. The suspect was the director of a company called Ultimate Medical Ltd (UML). Through this company he was then able to sell the items back to the Trust.

The Trust became suspicious when it started a tendering process for medical supplies and discovered UML was selling at unusually low prices.

The suspect and two of his accomplices were found guilty of committing fraud.

NHS Employee sentenced after stealing £65,000 from the Trust over 2-year period.

A former NHS employee has been handed a suspended prison sentence after admitting to stealing from the Trust she worked at.

Concerns were raised internally when the Trust internal audit and counter fraud team carried out wide ranging enquiries within the Trust.

The suspect wrote fraudulent cheques which moved funds from the Trust training charity to an investment scheme between 2007 and 2009.

The suspects actions diverted significant amount of funds which could have been used to provide education and training for NHS staff.

The suspect admitted to the offence and was sentenced to 27 months in prison, suspended for two years.

NHS Counter Fraud

TOP NEWS

Pharmacist jailed in £1.3m NHS prescription fraud

A pharmacist has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment for his role in an NHS Prescription fraud worth £1.3 million.

Following anomalies in the prescribing data, the CCGs obtained copies of prescriptions and checked them with the named GPs. These checks identified that there was no documentation to support the patients' clinical need for the drugs and confirmed they had not been prescribed.

Through the investigation and examination of prescriptions, it was identified that 1,639 prescriptions in the names of 24 GPs for 440 individual patients and 6,983 dispensed items were falsified. The GPs named as prescribers were interviewed and confirmed that they had not issued the prescriptions.

Serial NHS applicant jailed after lying about qualifications and references

A former NHS employee who lied about graduating from the University of Oxford and holding senior posts within the NHS has been jailed for four years.

The suspect was caught after applying for and being offered the role of Deputy Chief Operating Officer Urgent Care / Transformation and Operation at a Trust. Investigation showed that the suspect has submitted false references in support of his application.

In his application, the suspect claimed to have been awarded MSc degrees from two Universities (providing fictitious certification). However, both Universities confirmed that the suspect did not complete the respective courses.

He was found to have applied for 2,071 NHS posts, with 13 fraudulent employments resulting in a confirmed financial loss of £168, 072.41.

NHS Counter Fraud

NHS Counter Fraud Authority

International Fraud Awareness Week
15-21 November 2026

If you have any suspicions about fraud in the NHS, call 0800 028 4060 or report online at cfa.nhs.uk/report-fraud

www.cfa.nhs.uk

Working together to **find**, **report** and **stop** NHS fraud

As part of International Fraud Awareness Week, the counter fraud team at 360 Assurance will be delivering fraud awareness training sessions across a range of departments within our client organisations.

To follow along or get involved with IFAW search or use the hashtag: **#fraudweek #IFAW26 #FraudAwareness**

These engaging sessions will cover:

- What fraud is and the different forms it can take
- The current fraud landscape across the NHS
- Fraud risks relevant to specific audiences, including real case studies that have resulted in successful criminal prosecutions
- How and when to report suspicions of fraud
- Social engineering tactics used by fraudsters and practical steps to protect yourself
- An opportunity to meet the 360 Assurance Counter Fraud Specialists, ask questions, and discuss any concerns in a confidential and supportive environment

Whether you are new to fraud awareness or looking to refresh your knowledge, these sessions will provide valuable insight into the threats facing the NHS and the role everyone plays in protecting public funds.

Fraud Awareness Week 2026 Training Timetable

Date	Time	Audience	Link
Mon 16 Nov	10:00 - 11:00	Matrons & Senior Nurses	Join here
	14:00 - 15:00	Governance Staff	Join here
Tue 17 Nov	10:00 - 11:00	Roster Management	Join here
	14:00 - 15:00	Recruitment Staff	Join here
Wed 18 Nov	10:00 - 11:00	Bio Sciences Staff	Join here
	14:00 - 15:00	Senior Leaders & Practice Managers	Join here
Thu 19 Nov	10:00 - 11:00	Governance Staff	Join here
	12:00 - 13:00	Roster Management	Join here
	14:00 - 15:00	Matrons & Senior Nurses	Join here
Fri 20 Nov	10:00 - 11:00	Recruitment Staff	Join here
	12:00 - 13:00	Senior Leaders & Practice Managers	Join here
	14:00 - 15:00	Bio Sciences Staff	Join here

NHS
Counter Fraud Authority

STOP! THINK NHS FRAUD

Every year the NHS loses millions through fraud diverting much-needed resources to the NHS, costing taxpayers money.

Examples of NHS fraud include:

- deliberately claiming for free prescriptions
- members of staff or contractors being paid when they did not work
- lying on a job application
- providing cheaper drugs for patients but claiming for more expensive ones
- ending invoices for goods that were never delivered
- claiming for mileage that wasn't work related

The NHS Counter Fraud Authority (NHSCFA) is a special health authority tasked to lead the fight against fraud, bribery and corruption in the NHS.



Call anonymously to report NHS fraud on 0800 028 4060 or online at cfa.nhs.uk/report-fraud
www.cfa.nhs.uk

Working together to **find**, **report** and **stop** NHS fraud

AI ENABLED FRAUD

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a genuine double-edged sword for NHS counter fraud

The threat

AI is making fraud more sophisticated, harder to detect and easier for criminals to carry out.

The opportunity

The same AI technology being used by fraudsters is also being used by fraud investigators to spot fraud earlier and more effectively.

The catch

Human oversight remains essential to ensure AI is used safely, fairly and effectively.

The Department of Health and Social Care highlights that around two-thirds of reported UK fraud is now cyber-enabled and warns that the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) is creating new and evolving risks.

AI is having a significant impact on the fight against fraud.

While fraudsters are using AI to create convincing fake identities, documents, emails and voice recordings to facilitate fraud, counter fraud organisations are increasingly using the same technology to analyse large volumes of data, identify suspicious activity, uncover hidden links and detect fraud more quickly and accurately than ever before.

How AI Is Changing the Fraud Landscape for the NHS

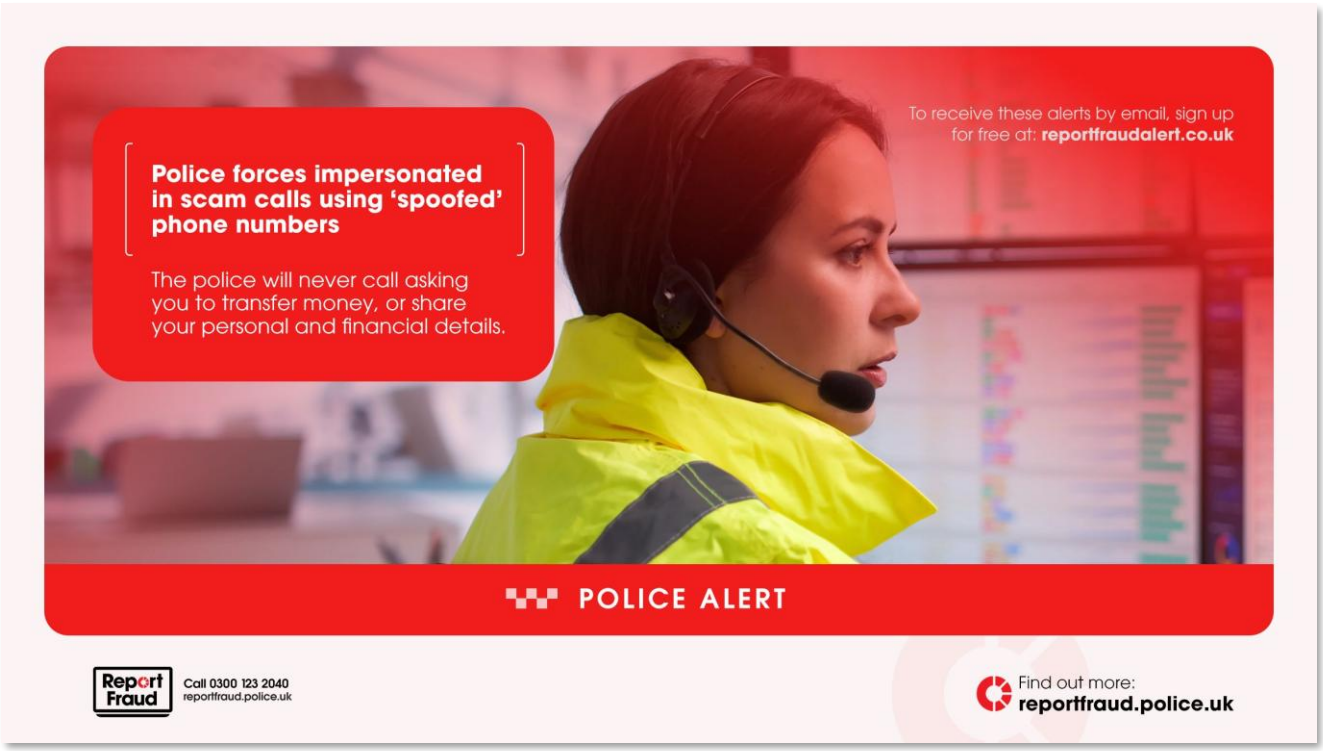
- 🎭 Deepfakes can impersonate trusted colleagues and senior leaders
- 📧 AI-generated scams are harder to recognise
- 🕵️ Fake identities can bypass recruitment controls
- 📄 Fraudulent documents look more convincing than ever
- 💰 Procurement and invoice fraud are becoming more sophisticated
- 🔍 AI can also help detect fraud faster and more effectively

AI can make fraud look more believable, but it cannot replace good judgement. Always verify and follow NHS controls

Stop. Check. Challenge. Fraud depends on you not doing all three.

REPORT FRAUD ALERT

Police forces are being impersonated in scam calls using ‘spoofed’ phone numbers



How to protect yourself:

- Remember that genuine service providers, banks and the police will NEVER call asking you to transfer money, share personal financial details or hand over remote control of your computer.

- If you are in any way suspicious, or feel pressured into anything, hang up and take time to check if the call is genuine. Call back on a number you know to be genuine, for example as shown on your utility bills or the back of your card. You can also call 159 to get through to your bank, or 101 for the police.

- Don’t trust the Caller ID display on your phone - it’s not proof of ID.

Read more:
https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/news/alert-police-forces-being-impersonated-in-scam-calls/

Meet the Counter Fraud Team

(Local Counter Fraud Specialists)



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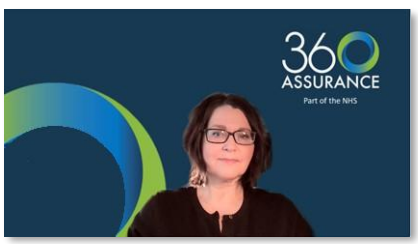
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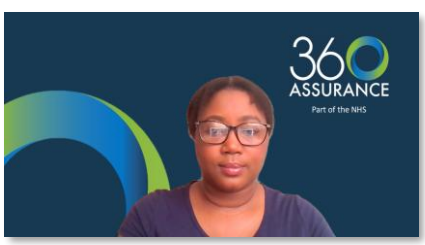
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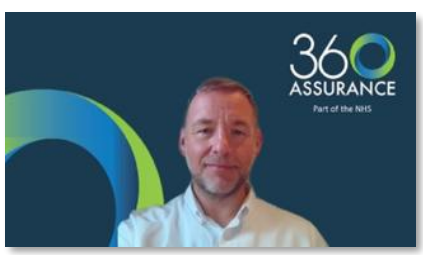
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Scan the QR code to report any suspicious Fraud, Bribery or Corruption

"Working together to **find**, **report** and **stop** NHS fraud"

NHS Counter Fraud Authority

For more information about fraud against the NHS, please visit the NHSCFA's website.
If you have any suspicions or concerns about fraud in the NHS, you can:

- Talk to your Counter Fraud Champion or Counter Fraud Specialist
- Report them direct to the NHSCFA https://cfa.nhs.uk/report-fraud
- By calling **0800 028 4060** (available 24 hours).

