

Concerned About Health Service Fraud?

We're here to listen

If you have any suspicions or concerns, you can contact the Counter Fraud Team on

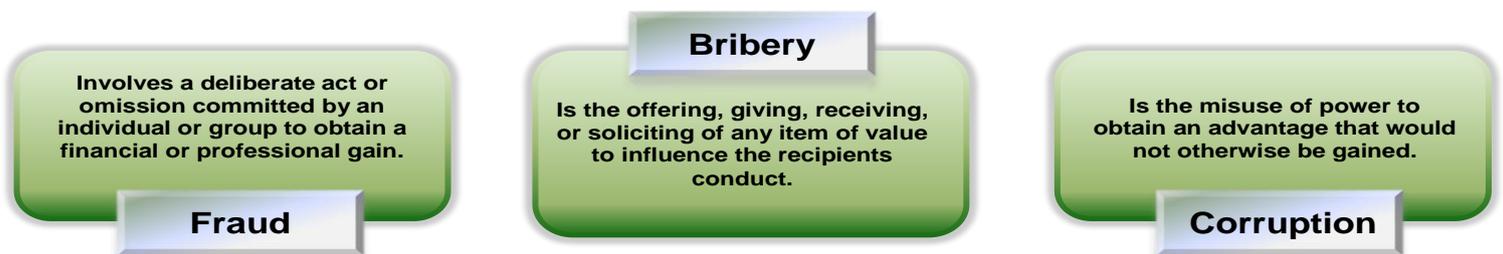
0115 883 53 21

or search 'NHS Fraud' online for more information.



November is Fraud Awareness Month within your organisation.

Procurement fraud is an issue of concern across the whole of the NHS, with previous enquiries indicating that procurement rules are not always adhered to. The levels of fraud reporting within procurement are relatively low but, as an area of huge spend and activity, it is vital that our processes are robust.



Source: NHS Counter Fraud Authority

✓ Do:

- **Declare any potential conflicts of interest** – Any private or personal interests which may conflict with your duties as an employee must be declared.
- **Follow key policies** – Such as Standing Financial Instructions, Standards of Business Conduct, Fraud, Bribery and Corruption, and Procurement policies.
- **Report your suspicions immediately** – No matter how insignificant they may seem, delays may lead to further financial loss.
- **Beware of key procurement fraud risks** – Including:
 - Bypassing tender processes
 - Bribery and corruption
 - Price fixing
 - Bid rigging
 - Contract splitting
 - Collusion between staff and suppliers
 - Contract under valuations
 - Failure to keep or publish evaluation criteria
 - Inappropriate use of tender waivers

* Don't:

- **Accept gifts or hospitality** – Particularly those above the thresholds set for your organisation. Generally, gifts above the value of £25 should not be accepted. Hospitality, if accepted, should only ever be similar to the scale of hospitality which the NHS as an employer would be likely to offer.
- **Breach Standing Orders or Standing Financial Instructions** – Procurement outside of local policies is unlikely to be in the interests of the organisation. Failure to comply with SFIs and EU Procurement Directives can be regarded as a disciplinary matter.
- **Try to investigate fraud matters yourself** – Never attempt to gather evidence yourself unless it is about to be destroyed. Gathering evidence must take into account legal procedures for it to be useful in a court of law. Do not discuss issues with your line manager as this could compromise any potential investigation.
- **Do nothing!** – Procurement fraud is estimated to cost the NHS around £252 million each year. This is taxpayers' money that could be spent on patient care.