



Finance Current Awareness Bulletin

December 2022

Analysis / Guidelines / Policies / Reports

British Medical Association

[Brick by brick: the case for urgent investment in safe, modern, and sustainable healthcare estates](#)

This report examines the condition of the NHS estate across the UK and its impact on both the wellbeing of doctors and patient care, with a focus on: the maintenance and modernisation of health care estates; the need to design health care environments with capacity, safety and wellbeing in mind; the impact health care estates have on climate and the environment; and the need for steeper increases in capital funding.

[Getting IT right: the case for urgent investment in safe, modern technology and data sharing in the UK's health services](#)

This report sets out the key areas where more needs to be done to ensure the recovery and resilience of UK health services and the safe delivery of care: infrastructure – hardware, software and connectivity; interoperability – standards and security; involvement – digital leadership, user involvement and skills development; inclusion – digital access and literacy for patients; and investment – prioritise existing funding, protect against budget cuts and increase funding.

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

[Integrating care: policy, principles and practice for places](#)

This report provides an overview of the changes since the Health and Care Act 2022 was introduced and discusses what integration is seeking to achieve. It considers the wider health and care landscape in the current climate and addresses the remaining challenges at place level. The recommendations and case studies it contains are intended to influence the development of further policy and guidance by central government, and to provide support for practitioners at local level.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

[NHS funding, resources and treatment volumes](#)

This report looks into the resources available to the NHS and how they are being used, looking beyond just the waiting list. It examines how the funding, staffing and hospital beds available to the NHS have changed and how the number of patients treated by the NHS in eight different areas compares with 2019 levels. It finds that for most areas of care, the NHS is still struggling to treat more people than it was pre-pandemic, despite having – on the face of it – additional staff and funding.



The Health Foundation

[How does UK health spending compare across Europe over the past decade?](#)

This analysis examines how health care spending in the UK compares with EU countries in the decade preceding the pandemic. Taking a longer term view enables us to see how trends in spending may have impacted health care resilience today.

HFMA

[Environmental sustainability round-up](#)

The December 2022 round-up highlights the latest developments in the NHS and wider finance profession as the movement for improved environmental responsibility continues. This briefing highlights the excellent submissions made for the first HFMA environmental sustainability award; recent news; events; training; Greener NHS blogs and case studies; and further reading to support the fight against climate change.

[NHS financial temperature check: Finance director survey results](#)

The key messages are:

- Almost all finance directors who responded to the survey rate the financial challenge in 2023/24 between eight and 10, on a scale where one is achievable and 10 is impossible.
- The ratings for the current financial year are lower – more finance directors expect to meet their own organisational plan in year. However, they are less certain that system wide plans will be achieved.
- Organisations are taking action as a result of these concerns. When asked what national bodies could do to help, the key messages were to be transparent about available funding and realistic about what can be achieved with that funding.
- There is still concern about achieving various targets in 2022/23:
 - some organisations rate more than half of their efficiency plans as high risk
 - all except one respondent did not expect to achieve the elective recovery target.
- Actions taken to meet efficiency targets are varied but the overall theme of responses was the reintroduction of pre-pandemic financial governance arrangements and additional grip and control.
- Finance directors are concerned that longer term measures in relation to prevention, population health and health inequalities will be delayed as resources are spent on more immediate concerns.
- Almost half of finance directors were concerned that quality will be impacted by financial constraints. This is already being seen in longer waiting times and restricted access to services.
- Capital programmes remain a concern, particular issues raised include the lack of clarity as to when permission to spend capital money will be received and the possibility of the release of capital funds in early 2023 that will have to be spent by the end of the financial year.



Library and Knowledge Services

- Working on a system wide basis to resolve issues was mentioned by respondents, but they are also aware that there needs to be a cultural shift to working on this basis and there is still silo working in some places.

HSJ: Health Service Journal

[Daily Insight: Back-office staff are frontline fraud fighters](#)

Fraud in the NHS, as in all walks of life, is under-reported, according to the NHS Counter Fraud Authority. Finance and procurement administrators, and counter-fraud specialists, are crucial but also often among the first in line when cuts are made. Also: All of Devon's acute NHS trusts are now in special measures. With the integrated care board also in the highest tier of central oversight, NHS England will be taking a much closer interest in the county.

[Daily Insight: Home or away?](#)

The Royal College of Radiologists puts the total amount of outsourced radiology work at £120m in 2021. There are signs that the NHS might look to repatriate some of that work so that public money doesn't leave the service as private profit. Also: uncertainties surrounding the viability of delegating commissioning budgets worth £23bn to integrated care systems has led to the plans being delayed.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

[Going under and without: Cost of living tracker - Winter 2022/23](#)

This new research highlights that low-income households' finances continue to buckle under the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis, as 7.2 million are going without the basics, and 4.7 million are behind on their bills. JRF is calling on the Government to fill the gaps left by the Autumn Statement so that people across the UK aren't building up debt and going without the basics.

Nuffield Trust

[Health and Brexit: six years on](#)

This report finds that Brexit and its changing relationships with neighbouring countries are exacerbating the severe challenges facing health and social care in the UK today in terms of staffing, accessing essential medicines and the overall economic picture.

Published research

Medication savings for the NHS and for patients

Mendes A. *British Journal of Community Nursing*, 2022, 27(12), p. 578-579

NHS England has reportedly saved £1.2 billion on medicines over the course of just 3 years, while still being able to secure state-of-the-art treatments for patients. This is due to NHS England prioritising their finances to aid better negotiations on prices for hundreds of hospital drugs. Four out of five medications prescribed in the NHS are now unbranded. This new way of purchasing will require suppliers to hold extra medications on UK soil, ensuring a cheaper, unbranded backup stock.]

To obtain a copy of this article go to: [journal article request](#)



The actual cost of clinical negligence in the NHS

British Journal of Nursing, 2022, 31(21), p. 1120-1121

The debate continues about the high cost of clinical negligence claims in the NHS. The CEO of the Medical Defence Union (MDU) recently had a letter published in The Times, arguing that the government must get to grips with runaway clinical negligence costs: 'This unsustainable situation is driven by an outdated legal system rather than deteriorating clinical standards. Legal reform is desperately needed.' Lee, 2022.

To obtain a copy of this article go to: [journal article request](#)

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We can provide training on how to search healthcare databases and resources as well as showing you how to appraise the information that you find:
<https://www.nhslincslibrary.uk/training/>

Online Resources

BMJ Best Practice is a clinical decision support tool that provides step-by-step guidance on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention of a wide variety of conditions:
<https://bestpractice.bmj.com/oafed>

ClinicalKey is a database which supports healthcare professionals by providing access to the latest evidence across specialties: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/>