



# Finance Current Awareness Bulletin

## October 2021

### News

#### [Sunak confirms £2.1bn for NHS technology for more 'connected' hospitals](#)

Chancellor Rishi Sunak has confirmed £2.1 billion for NHS IT upgrades and digital health technology in today's (Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October's) budget. The funding will cover "innovative use of digital technology so hospitals and other care organisations are as connected and efficient as possible".

#### [NHS 'needs £10.3bn to meet capital investment needs'](#)

*[Free registration required to read full articles]*

"Glaring holes" in the NHS capital budget pose a risk to patient safety and mean long waiting lists will be tough to reduce, the government has been warned.

### Guidelines, Policies and Reports

#### The Health Foundation

##### [Health and social care funding projections](#)

The report sets out what it may cost the government to fund the NHS and social care system in England along with workforce requirements over the next 10 years. The projections are based on underlying funding pressures – such as population size and age structure – and additional funding pressures, such as policy choices.

#### Healthcare Finance Management Association

##### [Financial reporting watching brief 2021/22 and beyond \(October 2021 update\)](#)

This briefing highlights the most recent guidance on the preparation of the 2021/22 annual report and accounts, the application date for IFRS 16, the amended financial reporting standards and recent changes to NHS specific guidance.

##### [Summary of 2021/22 priorities and operational planning guidance – October 2021 to March 2022](#)

The updated planning guidance for the second half of the financial year was issued on 30 September. It confirms that the operational priorities and the financial framework for the next six months will build on the requirements for the first half of the year.



[The future financial sustainability of health and social care](#)

This briefing considers whether the Health and Care bill enables the change that the health and social care system needs, both in the short term as the country seeks to recover from the pandemic and in the longer term as the sector more fully addresses population health and wellbeing.

**NHS Confederation**

[Beyond bricks and mortar: capital funding for the NHS](#)

Insufficient capital funding may hamper the government's plans for the NHS, impacting safety standards, digital innovations and worsening inequalities.

[Planning guidance 2021/22 update: October 2021 to March 2022](#)

Within the priorities, a notable addition includes a targeted investment fund of £700 million to spend by the end of March 2022. This is part of the funding announced in the latter half of the financial year (H2) settlement and will be positively received by NHS organisations who need quick access to capital. However, the short timescale available for applications is likely to cause frustration given that NHS organisations have consistently asked for long-term certainty on capital availability to invest in new and more efficient ways of working.

**NHS Providers**

[Rebuilding our NHS: The case for capital funding](#)

This briefing takes into account the wider financial context facing health and care services, but focuses specifically on making the case for additional capital investment.

**Published research**

**Factors influencing procurement behaviour and decision-making: an exploratory qualitative study in a UK healthcare provider**

**BMC Health Services Research 2021; 21(1)**

**Available at:** [BMC Health Services Research](#)

Four factors stood out in our analysis as directly affecting procurement decisions: (1) a high level of variation in electronic purchasing and inventory management procedures throughout the Trust, (ii) an inaccurate and cumbersome search facility on the internal electronic procurement platform, exacerbated by poor IT skills training and support (iii) an inefficient purchase approvals system and (iv) multiple working sites and cluttered environments.



## **Blogs**

### **Evidently Cochrane**

#### [Choosing health care wisely when resources are scarce](#)

In this blog Selena Ryan-Vig, Knowledge Broker at Cochrane UK, describes the first in a new series of Cochrane Special Collections which brings together examples of treatments and health care which – despite being costly and time-consuming – research suggests could be unhelpful to patients, or even harmful.

### **The King's Fund**

#### [The Comprehensive Spending Review – what more for health and care spending?](#)

#### [The Health and Care Levy: what was announced and what does it mean for health spending?](#)

#### [What does the new Health and Care Bill mean for NHS financial management?](#)



## Library and Knowledge Services

### **Library Services**

Would you like to keep up to date with the latest evidence on topics of your choice? Sign up for a current awareness alert: <https://www.nhslincslibrary.uk/knowledgeshare-request/>

Can't find the information you need? We can do literature searches for you:  
<https://www.nhslincslibrary.uk/page/search-request/>

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/page/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/>