



Finance Current Awareness Bulletin

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BMJ

[The rise of direct-to-consumer testing: is the NHS paying the price?](#)

Dozens of UK companies are offering private tests for a range of conditions and deficiencies. Some make claims that exceed the evidence base, and experts say regulation is needed to protect patients.

Centre for Health and the Public Interest

[The bet against the NHS - how likely is a two-tier healthcare system in the UK?](#)

This briefing unpacks the background and policy landscape creating increased concerns for the health care system in the UK. It explains how for-profit health care provision has grown in the past two decades, the role of the government in creating an environment that encouraged this growth, and the effect this has on patients and the way we access treatment based on ability to pay rather than level of need.

Centre for Health Economics

[Payment reform, purchaser and provider decisions and the performance of emergency healthcare systems: The case of blended payment in the English NHS](#)

In this project, we have focused on the implications of payment reform of what is called blended payment for emergency care. This paper sets out the theoretical model developed to understand how behavioural choices could be influenced by this payment reform. We construct a framework in which two organisations - a hospital and a purchaser - influence respectively admissions from, and attendance at, emergency departments.

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

[Does provider competition improve health care quality and efficiency? Expectations and evidence from Europe](#)

This briefing finds that the evidence on provider competition in Europe is growing, but it remains limited and clustered in a few countries. It suggests that the proximity to provider remains the main driver of patient choice of hospital. It also looks at other areas of study such as activity-based payments, hospital mergers and the involvement of private providers in the provision of publicly funded hospital care.



The Health Foundation

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

Key points:

- 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.
- Average day-to-day health spending in the UK between 2010 and 2019 was £3,005 per person – 18% below the EU14 average of £3,655.
- If UK spending per person had matched the EU14 average, then the UK would have spent an average of £227bn a year on health between 2010 and 2019 – £40bn higher than actual average annual spending during this period (£187bn).
- Matching spending per head to France or Germany would have led to an additional £40bn and £73bn (21% to 39% increase respectively) of total health spending each year in the UK.
- Over the past decade, the UK had a lower level of capital investment in health care compared with the EU14 countries for which data are available. Between 2010 and 2019, average health capital investment in the UK was £5.8bn a year. If the UK had matched other EU14 countries' average investment in health capital (as a share of GDP), the UK would have invested £33bn more between 2010 and 2019 (around 55% higher than actual investment during that period).

Health Services Journal

[Daily Insight: As simple as possible, but no simpler](#)

Earlier this month we revealed NHS England is considering a substantial return to a payment by results financial model for elective care in 2023-24. But NHS Providers' interim chief executive Saffron Cordery told HSJ this week that this would "feel like a retrograde step" that would cut across the new ICS agenda. Also: Two trusts, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole and Hull University Teaching Hospitals, are pressing ahead with plans to merge their leadership teams.

[Daily Insight: Out with the new, in with the old](#)

It is 16 years since the procurement and supply chain functions that had been part of services managed by the NHS Business Services Authority and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency were first outsourced. From May 2023 all but one category will be brought back in-house. Also: NHSE is investigating a "potential serious incident" relating to its flu programme and an unknown number of people aged 65 and over who were given the wrong jab.

[Daily Insight: Nice work if you can find it](#)

NHS managers who are "underperforming" should be "sacked" and the health service should reinvest some top salaries into the frontline, a new Department of Health and Social care adviser has said. Also: The income of two of the largest suppliers of agency staff to the NHS increased substantially year-on-year in 2021, their annual accounts reveal.



Library and Knowledge Services

[Daily Insight: Centre sniffs out gas spend variation](#)

NHS England is doing a deep dive into gas and electricity spend by trusts and has found a “lack of energy supply resilience” and “unwarranted price variations”. Also: A new universal “community recovery” service is being developed by NHSE, HSJ has revealed.

[Daily Insight: Literally paying their respects](#)

NHSE sometimes has the unenviable job of thinking through all the possible consequences of an unusual situation and making certain the rest of the NHS does the right thing. What many trusts might not have expected was being told to identify and potentially charge overseas visitors arriving for the Queen’s funeral. Also: Trusts are using cash reserves to plug holes in day-to-day spending in today’s much harsher financial envelope. But the surplus can only be used once.

[Daily Insight: Less pay, more pain](#)

Some senior NHS staff on Agenda for Change will see a reduction in their take-home pay, thanks to the government’s latest pay award and its impact on pension contribution thresholds. Also: A top NHS chief executive has said talk of cutting management in the NHS is getting in the way of more important conversations about the operating model of the health service.

[Daily Insight: Barclay's cost cutting continues](#)

NHS England, the Care Quality Commission, and other national bodies have been ordered to impose a “complete recruitment pause” in what could be the final days of the health and social care secretary Steve Barclay’s short-lived tenure. Also: It has been a long time coming, but finally plans to reconfigure emergency care at one of the country’s most troubled trusts have passed the first hurdle.

The King’s Fund

[The Autumn Budget 2022: what was announced and what does it mean for health and care spending?](#)

Fiscal events may have come thick and fast in recent years but they are still important events that have a significant bearing on the health and care sector. Let’s take a look at what this year’s Autumn Budget means for health and social care.

Legatum Institute

[Modelling the poverty impact of rising energy costs](#)

A new report by the Legatum Institute finds that rising costs will lead to an increase of 2.75 million in poverty versus pre-pandemic levels. Freezing energy prices at summer 2022 levels would shield 1.45 million of these people from falling into poverty.



National Audit Office

[Introducing integrated care systems: joining up local services to improve health outcomes](#)

This report examines the setup of integrated care systems by the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England, and partners and the risks they must manage. The report is not an assessment of whether the programme has secured good value for money to date because ICSs have only recently taken statutory form. Instead, it is an assessment of where they are starting from and the challenges and opportunities ahead. It makes recommendations intended to help manage risks and realise opportunities.

NHS Confederation

[Developing integrated care strategies: tips for successful partnership working](#)

These top tips are informed by health and care leaders across the country, and colleagues at the Local Government Association, to help leaders embed collaborative ways of working throughout the integrated care partnerships (ICP) and to serve as a useful guide for engaging with partners in developing the integrated care strategy.

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)

[Financial wellbeing: applying All Our Health](#)

Evidence and information for health and care professionals and the wider workforce to promote the benefits of financial wellbeing. The resource illustrates how money can impact on wellbeing and identifies how frontline health and care staff can use their trusted relationships with patients, families and communities to promote the benefits of financial wellbeing. It also recommends important actions that managers and staff holding strategic roles can take.



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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/>