



# Finance Current Awareness Bulletin

August 2023

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice. The scope of this bulletin includes the UK economy, finance, procurement, sustainability, good working practices and digital.

## [HFMA Awards](#)

This award focuses on how NHS finance teams are making an active contribution to their organisation's and/ or system's efforts to tackle health inequalities.

**Deadline:** 22 September 2023

## **Creating better health value: understanding the economic impact of NHS spending by care setting**

This [research from NHS Confederation](#) examines where the greatest returns on investment from spending in the NHS can come from to impact the wider domestic economy. It shows that when high levels of funding are ploughed into primary and community care the economic gains are significant.

## **Exploring the earnings of NHS doctors in England**

This [briefing from the Nuffield Trust](#) looks at how doctors' pay in England has changed over time, how it compares to other salaries in the wider economy, and how it compares with what doctors in other countries are paid.

## **Home improvement: a triple dividend – Part one: boosting the British economy**

This [report from Demos presents a case for a comprehensive nationwide programme to address the poor quality of the UK's homes](#). It explores the economic opportunity that lies in shaping a home improvement policy that provides safe, energy-efficient homes for a growing and ageing population. It concludes that by investing in homes, pressure on health and social care services could be reduced.

## **How much public spending does each area receive? Local authority level estimates of health, police, school and local government spending**

In this [report the Institute for Fiscal Studies](#) estimate the level of funding for key public services in each local authority area in England in 2022-23 and compares the relative levels of funding different areas receive to estimates of their relative spending needs. Using the [accompanying calculator](#) you can see how much was spent per head of population on local services including: the NHS, schools, local government, the police, and public health.



### **Inequalities in disability**

This [analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies](#) looks at differences and inequalities in the prevalence of disability and the degree to which health limits functional capabilities in the UK. This commentary studies differences in the prevalence of disability between education groups, regions, date of birth cohorts and genders. While there are a number of ways in which disability may affect outcomes, this commentary focuses particularly on employment as an outcome.

### **Proposed review of the 2023 scheme to control the cost of branded health service medicines**

The [Department of Health and Social Care proposes to amend the statutory scheme controlling the cost of branded health service medicines](#). The consultation sets out proposed amendments in three main areas: increasing the allowed growth rate, which will have the effect of changing the payment percentages; revising which sales of branded medicines are exempt from scheme payments; and a new approach to control spending on older branded medicines (the 'lifecycle adjustment'). This consultation document seeks views on the proposals, particularly from the pharmaceutical industry and NHS patients. The consultation closes at 11am on 10 October 2023.

### **Reciprocal healthcare policy framework for the funding of healthcare abroad in exceptional circumstances**

From 18 August 2023, the Secretary of State will have the power to authorise payments for health care outside the scope of a health care arrangement in countries with which we have a reciprocal health care arrangement in place. [The framework](#) sets out the factors the Secretary of State will take into account when making discretionary funding decisions in exceptional circumstances. This framework ensures discretionary funding powers are implemented consistently and fairly for patients across the UK, and supports transparency and accountability in the use of public funding for public services.

### **Resources and funding to reduce health inequalities**

This [briefing from the HFMA](#) sets out to explain the sources of funding available to systems to address health inequalities. It highlights the complexities that exist within current funding and allocation formulae while acknowledging the tools that are being developed to support organisations in ensuring that resources are appropriately redistributed to reduce health inequalities.



## **Leadership & management**

### **Online sessions available for free to NHS staff**

Follow the links for dates, times and how to register:

- [Developing a flexible approach to your leadership behaviours](#)  
This session is aimed at those who are new to a leadership role, and/or those who would like to improve their leadership skills.
- [Planning your career](#)  
This webinar aims to help participants reflect on their career to date and their future career aspirations and consider how to manage through transition when changing roles or jobs.
- [Radical candour](#)  
This one hour members' webinar on Radical Candour will consider how to build trust, foster accountability and achieve better outcomes through honest, direct conversations.
- [Writing an effective business case](#)  
This online 2-hour session provides practical guidance on writing business cases based on Her Majesty's Treasury Guidance.

## **Sustainability**

### **A mixed-methods analysis of the climate impact, acceptability, feasibility and cost of switching from single-use pulp to reusable plastic trays in a large NHS trust.**

**Future Healthcare Journal, 2023, 10(2), pp.157-160.**

A large, multi-site NHS trust piloted switching from single-use pulp to reusable plastic trays for use in clinical care. This mixed-methods analysis combines quantitative cost-effectiveness and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculations with a stakeholder analysis and user survey to not only ascertain the cost and climate implications of this intervention, but to also better understand the use of trays across the trust to improve staff buy-in and, ultimately, the feasibility and success of the policy. We show that the plastic trays are both more cost-effective and climate friendly compared with the pulp trays, even using an annual replacement rate of 50% (higher than our anticipated rate of 5%), and that staff and key stakeholders would support the policy. Our analysis is one example of a larger trend in the return to reusable items, as awareness grows of the significant GHG emissions and waste produced from disposable, single-use items in healthcare.

**Click here for full access:** [Future Healthcare Journal](#)

### **The carbon footprint of healthcare settings: A systematic review.**

**Journal of Advanced Nursing, 2023**

Healthcare systems are responsible for 4%-5% of the emissions of greenhouse gases worldwide. Interventions should be carried out by the healthcare organizations responsible of Greenhouse Gas emissions, and also every single individual that integrates them should make changes. The use of evidence-based approaches to identify carbon hotspots and implement the most effective interventions in the healthcare setting could lead to a significant reduction of carbon emissions.

**Click here for full access:** [Journal of Advanced Nursing](#)



## Library and Knowledge Services

### Library Services

- **Current awareness:** 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/>
- **Literature searching:** Can't find the information you need? We can do literature searches for you: <https://www.nhslincslibrary.uk/search-request/>
- **Information skills training:** 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/>
- **Finance and Accounting books can be found on our library catalogue [here](#).** If you would like to borrow a book, please register [here](#). If you are already registered to borrow books, log in to your account using your Reader ID and PIN. You can then select the books you wish to borrow. If you have forgotten your Reader ID and/or PIN please email [library.lincoln@ulh.nhs.uk](mailto:library.lincoln@ulh.nhs.uk)

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