

FT Bulletin

21 February 2014

Issue 78

Monitor

Making the health sector
work for patients

Welcome to the February edition of Monitor's FT Bulletin.

This bulletin is sent to foundation trust chief executives, chairs, trust secretaries, finance, medical and nursing directors and the Foundation Trust Network. Click on the links below to jump straight to the relevant sections of the bulletin.

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Quarterly A&E reporting

Some NHS foundation trusts have requested clarification of the quarterly reporting periods for the A&E target within the quarterly template. While some trusts report across weekly periods, in line with NHS England requirements, others report on calendar-month basis.

To avoid conflicting definitions, we would like to clarify that foundation trusts are required to report A&E performance under the same quarterly reporting periods as the quarterly aggregate data published in the Situation Reports (SitReps) by NHS England.

For additional guidance please refer to the NHS England website ([A&E SitReps 13/14](#)). Monitor's *Risk Assessment Framework* will be *updated* to reflect this clarification.

Support for foundation trusts contemplating mergers

Monitor's Chief Executive, [David Bennett seeks your views](#) on a proposed new approach to help facilitate a smoother and swifter path for mergers which will benefit patients. In particular, we aim to:

- engage with trusts at an early stage to ensure any proposal works well for patients, from both good governance and competition perspectives.
- streamline the process and avoid unnecessary cost by assisting as merger proposals are being developed; and
- focus on key areas that can cause mergers to stall.

Please submit your feedback to us **by 5pm on 28 February**.

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[Consultation on our revised approach to risk assessing NHS foundation trust transactions – closes 28 February](#)

We are [seeking your views](#) on our proposals to update Monitor's approach to risk assessing transactions undertaken by NHS foundation trusts, and our proposals for good practice guidance on transactions. Please read our proposals and respond by **5pm on 28 February**.

[Draft governance review guidance – consultation closes 7 March](#)

In January we published draft guidance on carrying out governance reviews, designed to support you in gaining assurance that your foundation trust is well led and able to meet patients' needs and expectations in challenging circumstances. Please read the [draft guidance](#) and respond to the consultation by **5pm Friday 7 March**. Any questions? Email governance@monitor.gov.uk

[Chairs of provider organisations: tell us the support you need](#)

Monitor, in partnership with the NHS Trust Development Authority and Foundation Trust Network, wants to know your views on the external support currently provided to Chairs. We have sent out a short survey to Chairs of NHS and foundation trusts in the last few days. The results will help inform potential further or refreshed support for Chairs. Please look out for this survey and complete it **by 14 March**. Any questions? Email deepy.kang@monitor.gov.uk or call 020 3747 0113.

[Check the latest Accounts and FTCs process guidance issued this month](#)

The latest guidance for foundation trusts relating to the accounts and FTCs process and Alignment Project is available on our website [here](#).

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Getting better value from procurement for patients

Along with the DH, we wrote to you this month highlighting a number of recommendations on how NHS procurement could be approached, to free up £1.5 to 2 billion savings for patient care over the next three years. The recommendations, from the government's [Better Procurement, Better Value, Better Care](#) publication issued last August, include stabilising non-pay spending; tackling inflationary pressures; and pursuing innovative solutions collectively. Find out more [here](#).

Do you have surplus land not required for clinical purposes?

If your foundation trust has surplus land not required for clinical purposes, then you could use this to generate savings by reducing the cost of your estate. In addition, freeing up surplus land could help families' access affordable housing by 2015. Find out [more in this letter](#) from the Department of Health, Monitor and the NHS Trust Development Authority.



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[‘Special measures’ successfully turning troubled hospitals around](#)

Last week, we published a report with the NHS Trust Development Authority highlighting the significant progress made turning around some of the country’s most challenged hospitals. Find out more [here](#).

[Developing the NHS payment system - our programme for 2014](#)

NHS England and Monitor are responsible for the development of the NHS payment system under rules set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. In line with our strong commitment to engage with the health sector over the coming year, a timeline of what you can expect to happen is available at monitor.gov.uk/pricing. This guide identifies our 2014 planning in tariff and costing development, and wider development of the payment system. A forward look outline will also be published in the coming weeks.

[We are seeking representatives for pricing advisory groups](#)

NHS England and Monitor’s long term aim is to develop a payment system that supports delivery of good quality care for patients in a sustainable way. To help us achieve this, four new advisory groups are being developed to inform and advise us on:

- the National Tariff;
- the long term strategy for the payments system;
- approaches on benchmarking for costing and quality; and
- approaches to costing collection practices.

We are looking for representatives from across the health sector and welcome expressions of interest from clinical and non-clinical professionals, patient representatives, academics and others who are passionate about improving patient care through the mechanisms by which we pay for it.

Further details can be found [here](#). Deadline for applications is **Friday 28 February** 2014.

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Our call for evidence on GP services - latest

This month we published [this discussion document](#) which summaries the issues raised following our call for evidence on general practice services in England in July 2013. Find out more [here](#).

What should be included in your quality report for 2013/14?

Our [Detailed requirements for quality reports 2013/14](#) guidance was published earlier this month. This outlines what should be included in your foundation trust's report on the quality of care you provide, which should be included within your overall annual report.

Quality of care reports: detailed guidance for external assurance

We will be publishing detailed guidance to help foundation trusts and auditors carry out the required external assurance of their quality of care reports on **Tuesday 25 February**. Our guidance for 2013/14 aims to help you improve public accountability for the quality of care your trust provides.

Changes to the Code of Governance

We published a revised Code of Governance for NHS foundation trusts in December 2013. Since then, we have received feedback regarding provision B.2.4 (page 27). We had included a requirement that a governor should chair the nominations committee in the case of non-executive director appointments – this has now been removed. Please look again at [the updated Code](#) on our website, and do not hesitate to [get in touch](#) if you have any questions.

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Approved Costing Guidance

Our [Approved Costing Guidance](#) has been updated. This includes the reference cost collection guidance for 2013/14 as well as voluntary PLICS collection guidance and templates for 2013/14. View on our website [here](#).

Walk-in centres final report

This week we published our final [report into the review of walk-in centres](#) which opened last May. The report takes into account responses received to our preliminary findings (in December), and has recommendations for commissioners deciding whether to continue to procure walk-in centre services.

Over 2,000 patients across England who use walk-in centres were surveyed in the review. We also received 65 direct responses to the review from patients, walk-in centre providers, GPs, commissioners and others in the health care sector. Read the report [here](#).

Our review of the foundation trust sector

Today (21 February), we published our report on the performance of the foundation trust sector over the last nine months. You can find this on our website [here](#).



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Monitor at upcoming FTN events

FTN Finance Directors Network event - 27 February

Toby Lambert, Monitor's Director of Strategy, and Catherine Pollard, Monitor's Pricing Development Director, will discuss strategic planning and the long term strategy for the NHS payment system.

FTN's first Quality of Care conference - 19 March

Monitor's Executive Director of Assessment, Miranda Carter, joins a panel to discuss the role of the Board in quality governance at the FTN's first Quality of Care Conference.

Find out more about these events from the Foundation Trust Network [here](#).

Health and Care Innovation Expo – 3, 4 March

Monitor will be exhibiting and taking part in the pop-up university at this year's Health and Care Innovation Expo on 3 and 4 March in Manchester. Find out more and book your place [here](#).

Webinar on local variations, modifications and pricing - 5 March

Tune in to our free webinar designed to help providers and commissioners ensure they are compliant with the national tariff from 1 April 2014 when using locally determined prices. Sign up to the webinar [here](#).



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[Mental Health Network Annual Conference - 26 March](#)

Come and talk to us at our stand at this important conference looking at the Future of Mental Health. Find out more about the event [here](#).

[Commissioning LIVE - 26 March](#)

We are speaking and exhibiting at Commissioning Live in London as part of our continuing commitment to work with commissioners to ensure patients receive the best possible care. Find out more [here](#).

[Strategic Financial Leadership Programme – 16 June](#)

The Strategic Financial Leadership Programme is the product of a collaboration between the Department of Health, the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement and Monitor. It has been created to address the challenges facing finance directors in the modern NHS and will help develop their skills by focusing on leading-edge developments in the world of finance and management.



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Chair / CEO Board Induction day

Thanks to everyone who registered for March CEO/ Chair induction day, which is now fully booked. Monitor runs these sessions for newly appointed chairs and chief executives of NHS foundation trusts who have not had prior experience of Monitor's authorisation process. Content includes:

- Monitor's role: including an overview of pricing and competition
- The NHS foundation trust legal framework
- The regulatory regime: including the *Risk Assessment Framework* and enforcement processes
- Current issues in the NHS
- Quality and quality governance
- Foundation Trust governance, including working effectively with governors

Like to be kept informed of future dates? Contact mel.baldwin@monitor.gov.uk



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External updates

[Message to NHS staff from secretary of state for health on patient care and safety](#)

January was six months since the Keogh review which led to 11 hospitals being placed in special measures. In [this message](#) to NHS staff, Jeremy Hunt talks about the drive to ensure safe and compassionate care for all.

[Jeremy Hunt's message to NHS staff one year after Francis report](#)

The Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, issued [this message for NHS staff](#) one year after the publication of the Francis report.

[A strategy for an environmentally and socially sustainable health and care system](#)

The strategy was launched by the [Sustainable Development Unit](#) (funded jointly by NHS England and Public Health England) and includes approaches for the health, public health and social care sector to reduce carbon emissions, protect natural resources, prepare communities for extreme weather events and to promote healthy lifestyles and environments. To help meet the goals of the strategy, five modules focusing on specific areas to tackle have been developed and foundation trusts should consider how they might engage with the new strategy and vision. Find out more [here](#).

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Getting in touch

Monitor update: our monthly newsletter

Read the February edition of our [corporate newsletter here](#).

Find previous editions on [our website here](#).

Our latest job opportunities

For more information or to apply, please visit our recruitment website joinmonitor.com

Queries or feedback

If you have any queries about the information in this bulletin, please contact your Relationship Manager at Monitor.

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