

FT Bulletin

24 June 2014

Issue 82



Welcome to the June 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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For action

Sign up to Safety – register your foundation trust today

Today, a campaign called '[Sign up to Safety](#)' launched, which aims to halve avoidable harm in the NHS in England and has the potential to save thousands of lives over three years.



Monitor is supporting the campaign along with our partners. Find out more in our joint [letter that explains why your personal leadership as chief executives of foundation trusts is crucial](#) to strengthening patient safety.

Sign up to Safety and join [the seven foundation trusts](#) who have already committed to make their services more safe and to dramatically reduce rates of avoidable harm. Register your foundation trust at www.signuptosafety.nhs.uk and join the patient safety conversation on Twitter at #SignuptoSafety @SignuptoSafety

Signing up to Safety means you commit to:

- publicly declare how your foundation trust will improve safety in your hospitals
- turn your proposed actions into a safety improvement plan
- engage your staff and patients in the campaign and link to existing safety initiatives
- encourage reporting of patient safety incidents
- regularly report progress against your plan to improve safety in your hospitals, explaining action taken in response to safety alerts.



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For action

Annual report and accounts: submit to DH Parliamentary office by 25 June

Remember to submit your annual report and accounts for laying before Parliament to the Department of Health Parliamentary Office **to arrive by 25 June 2014** at the latest. The format must be approved by the DH Parliamentary Office prior to printing. It is very important the strict rules for the format of these documents are followed. Refer to annex 2, chapter 1 of the [2013/14 FT ARM](#).

Please submit your final laid annual report and accounts (including quality report and auditor opinions) to Monitor via the Portal by 11 July 2014 as a single pdf file. Please refer to page 20 of the 2013/14 FT ARM.

Your 5 year operational plans: last call to submit by 2pm, 30 June

In May, [we wrote to all foundation trusts](#) following our initial review of your two year operational plans for 2015/16 and in response to your questions.

Foundation trusts are required to submit financial plans covering five years for the first time. A submission covering the first two years, along with appropriate financial and operational commentary, was due in April. Your submission covering the outer three years along with related strategic commentary should be submitted **by 2pm 30 June 2014**. [Visit our website for guidance and further information](#).

Guidance available on operational resilience and referral to treatment 2014/15

To help you, other NHS providers and commissioners plan your operational resilience during 2014/15, we've published joint guidance with the NHS Trust Development Authority and ADASS. The framework covers both urgent and planned care and measures to support the changes which will arise through the Better Care Fund. [Read more here](#).



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Better Care Fund: have you considered this in your forward plans?

Working with the NHS Trust Development Authority, we'd like to know how engaged your foundation trust has been in agreeing the Better Care Fund plan for your area and whether the impact on your activity and finances has been reflected in your forward plans. If you haven't already done so, let us know about [your involvement in planning for the Better Care Fund in our short survey](#), open until **27 June**.

The Better Care Fund was introduced to encourage closer working between health and social care services in local areas.

Licence conditions: what has the impact been for you and your patients?

We're looking at the impact of the NHS provider licence conditions since they came into effect for foundation trusts on 1 April 2013. Do you have any major concerns with the licence? Can you highlight any positive change for patients as a result of the licence? We'd like your views and plan to email a survey to trust secretaries later this week.

The survey will be open until **31 August 2014**.



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Our new website on GOV.UK

We hope by now you've had a chance to visit our new website at www.gov.uk/monitor.

You may find it helpful to bookmark some of these links:

- [FT collection](#)
- [FT reporting requirements](#)
- [FT directory](#)
- [FT governors collection](#)

This [video](#) talks you through how to navigate your way around the website.

Please help us to improve the site by completing this [survey](#).

Helping the NHS to change: Monitor's annual plan for 2014/2015

Our annual plan encourages NHS providers to develop new ways of working and to take controlled risks in order to improve patient care. [Find out more](#).

The sustainability of small acute hospital trusts: we publish our findings

Following our call for evidence from the sector last October, we found no clear evidence that smaller acute hospitals performed any worse clinically than larger counterparts. However, our analysis shows evidence of smaller providers starting to face greater financial challenges.

[Find out more from our report](#).



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Taking action to improve care for patients

We've recently taken action or opened an investigation at the following NHS foundation trusts:

- We began investigating [Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#) in April 2014 after it emerged that its financial position is much worse than expected.

The trust will now take action to look at what caused the problem and how it can recover, and will seek help to plug a £7.55 million hole in its finances, so that it can continue to provide quality care for its patients.

- We've opened an investigation into [West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust](#) due to concerns about its financial performance. The trust failed to meet its planned savings and overspent by around £4 million last year.

In addition to the action taken above, we've also removed [Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#) from special measures after the trust improved its services for patients.

Our advice on two proposed mergers

Having considered the acquisition of [Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust](#) by the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, we're content for this to proceed. If the acquisition does go ahead, we'll work with the Royal Free to make sure the required improvements to finances and patient services happen as expected.

Read our advice to the Competition and Markets Authority on the anticipated acquisition by [Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#).



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FTN Governance Conference 2014 – 1 July

Are you a chair, non-executive director or company secretary?

You can find out more about our work to improve strategic planning across the health care sector and about the special measures process, including how trusts can move out of special measures, at the [Foundation Trust Network's governance conference](#). Regional Directors, Mark Turner and Yvonne Moulds will be speaking, ready to take your questions.

HFMA's Annual Foundation Trust Conference – 3 to 4 July

As a foundation trust, what support do you need to continue to uphold the necessary quality, operational and financial standards? Our Managing Director of Sector Development, Adrian Masters, joins a panel to discuss sustainability and the support we can provide at the HFMA's conference in Brighton. [Find out more](#).

Increasing value for patients through enabling effective clinical and financial engagement conference – London, Tuesday 16 September 2014

In partnership with the HFMA, we're hosting this conference to share lessons from across the sector on improving clinical and financial input into business decision making.

The conference will include examples from a range of NHS providers on how they have ensured decision-making is clinically led including tackling key issues such as leadership, culture, training and data availability. The event is aimed at board members (especially finance, operations, medical and nursing) as well as divisional or service line leads. Get the full details and register [here](#).

Strategic Financial Leadership Programme – 20 to 24 October and 10 to 14 November

This programme aims to address the challenges facing finance directors in the modern NHS and will help develop your skills by focusing on leading-edge developments in the world of finance and management. Find out more and book your place [here](#).



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Free CEO/ Chair induction day – 12 September

Are you a newly appointed chair or chief executive of an NHS foundation trust? Perhaps you have no prior experience of our foundation trust authorisation process? If so, register for our **free CEO/Chair induction day on 12 September**. Venue: our offices in Waterloo, London. Limited spaces allocated on a first come first served basis. Book your place or be kept informed of future dates by emailing: mel.baldwin@monitor.gov.uk

The induction includes:

- Our new 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



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External updates

Jeremy Hunt's message to NHS staff during Carers Week 2014

During Carers Week 2014 (9-15 June), the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, paid tribute to carers across the country, including NHS staff. He said: "I know many of you not only put your all into looking after patients but also care for an ill, frail or disabled family member or friend. You who are among the 6.5 million carers across the UK who do so much, 365 days a year. It is a vital, and often under recognised, role that is key to the welfare of so many in our society." [Read the full message.](#)

Consultation on 3 new modules to support the Sustainable Development Strategy

The [Sustainable Development Strategy](#) for the Health and Care System 2014/2020 is supported by a number of modules that each focus on a different aspect of sustainability in the health system. [Five modules](#) were launched with the strategy by the Sustainable Development Unit in January 2014. Comments from colleagues across the sector are welcomed to help shape the following 3 modules which will be launched in January 2015:

- [An integrated metrics approach](#)
- [Innovation, technology and R&D](#)
- [Creating social value](#)
- [Find out more.](#)

The consultation closes on **31 August**.



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Monitor update: our monthly newsletter

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