

FT Bulletin

23 May 2014

Issue 81

Monitor

Making the health sector
work for patients

Welcome to the May 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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Hard Truths Commitments: staffing data to be provided by 10 June

Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS England, wrote to NHS providers on 16 May setting out arrangements to publish staffing data for nursing, midwifery and care staff. The final date for providing data so it can be accessed by the public is 10 June. [Find out what you need to do here.](#)

Your operational plans: should your 2015/16 projections be revisited?

This month 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. It is vital that individual boards, Monitor and fellow regulators have a realistic view of the scale of the financial challenge faced over the next few years, based on sound assumptions both of the level of pressures faced and the likely impact of initiatives to address these pressures.

To this end, **we're inviting you to consider if your projections for 2015/16 need to be revisited and encourage you to be realistic in your 5 year plan submission due at the end of June 2014.** We will also be seeking further information from you shortly as to how providers have engaged with the 'Better Care Fund' as part of our work to review plans.

[Read the letter here.](#)

RTT waiting times data: commissioner sign-off is now five days

The commissioner sign-off period for RTT waiting times data has been reduced from ten to five working days. This will apply for April 2014 data onwards.

These changes should not materially affect providers who already submit their RTT data within established timescales. However, it may affect providers who historically submit their data late (effectively eating into the commissioner sign-off period).

The change in RTT reporting timescales follows NHS England's consultation between January and March 2014. For further details, please see:

- [NHS England's consultation response](#)
- [Updated timetable for RTT data submissions](#) (only available to Unify account holders)
- [Updated timetable for RTT data publication](#)



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Cancer targets: clarification on what you need to do from Q1 2014/15

To reduce the risk of foundation trusts being held to different performance standards by commissioners and regulators, we're clarifying the standards we use as part of our assessment of governance at foundation trusts.

Some foundation trusts, particularly tertiary providers, have had a historical dispensation to apply a lower threshold when considering compliance with some cancer standards for the purposes of reporting to us. This dispensation is not recognised by any other national body or the NHS constitution. Therefore from Q1 2014/15 onwards we will no longer apply any dispensations on achieving cancer standards. We will contact foundation trusts affected by this change to discuss the practical impact this might have.

We are aware that local system-wide agreements exist regarding the allocation of cancer standard breaches. From Q1 2014/15 onwards, foundation trusts are required to submit data against cancer targets which reflects their submission to the Department of Health via the Open Exeter system. **All** foundation trusts involved in local breach re-allocations should **also** submit data that shows their position after the application of any local agreements. For the purposes of declaring a target "achieved" or "not met" trusts should reflect their position after the application of any local breach re-allocation agreements.

Your capital expenditure forecasts on one reporting template – from next quarter

To reduce the number of separate returns required from trusts during the year, from Q1 14/15 onwards the quarterly reporting template will include a section to allow you to reforecast your capital expenditure for the remainder of the year.

You will only need to complete the capital expenditure reforecast section before you submit your quarterly return if you have significantly (by 15%) overspent or underspent your year to date planned capital expenditure at Q1, Q2 or Q3. Otherwise, please leave the capital expenditure reforecast section blank.

Please ensure your trust is prepared for this change, so that if you are required to reforecast your capital expenditure you can complete any necessary internal governance procedures



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(e.g. Board approval of the revised capital program, if required), before submitting your quarterly return.

Your views on improving clinical engagement on business decisions

We're interested in learning more about how you engage with clinicians and, if you use service line management, how this is organised. If you're not using service line management we're interested in hearing what you are using instead. [Start our survey here](#). Open until **Tuesday 27 May**.

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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Our move to GOV.UK: final countdown

Like government departments and most arm's length bodies, we're required to move our website content to GOV.UK and close down our current website.

From the 28 May 2014, our new web address will be www.gov.uk/monitor. You'll find most of our content here, apart from older items that are no longer in force - you'll still be able find these on the [National Archives](#) website. To make life easier for you, all existing links will automatically redirect you to GOV.UK or to the National Archives, where appropriate.

Bespoke content for foundation trusts

As a foundation trust, you will be able to find all the information you need in [one place](#), including Monitor's advice, guidance and statutory obligations. There will also be topic-based document collections. For example, the NHS payment system; procurement, choice and competition; and integrated care.

Quick and easy to find what you're looking for

It's easy to search for information on GOV.UK – just go to the [search tool](#) and change the search terms to what you're looking for. You'll find all our latest news, publications and consultations [on this page](#). GOV.UK's [document finder](#) is easy to use and allows you to refine your search options. This is especially useful if you're trying to find information on a specific topic or from a range of dates.

Links you might find useful:

Here's a sample of popular Monitor content that will appear on GOV.UK:

- Guidance and information for and about NHS foundation trusts: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-foundation-trusts-documents-and-guidance>
- FT Directory: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trust-directory>
- Accounting guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-foundation-trusts-financial-accounting-guidance>



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Future-Focused Finance: Making People Count – needs your leadership and input

The 'Future-Focused Finance' programme is about 'Making People Count'. That includes everyone who works in finance, in every role at every level, those we all work with to deliver services and the patients and communities that use and support those services. But, **turning the ambition of 'Future-Focused Finance' into reality needs local leadership and input** so that the programme can be further shaped and brought to life within a recognisable context and in a sustainable way.

See how you can contribute your views and get involved in the programme. [Read our joint letter](#) with the NHS TDA, NHS England, NHS Health Education England, the Department of Health and the HFMA.

Performance of the foundation trust sector in 2013/14 – report published

[A report to our board](#), which was published on our website today (23 May), shows NHS foundation trusts hired an additional 24,000 members of staff last year, three times what was planned, in order to upgrade the quality of services to patients.

The majority of new staff were nurses, healthcare assistants and others supporting frontline services. [The report](#) shows trusts are acting to tackle the failures of care highlighted by the Francis report and Keogh review.

Two new senior appointments at Monitor

Iain Osborne has been appointed as a [non-executive director at Monitor](#).

Professor Hugo Mascie-Taylor has been appointed as our [Medical Director and Executive Director of Patient and Clinical Engagement](#).

Medical directors tell us they need more support

Our joint survey with the NHS Trust Development Authority from December 2013 to January 2014 revealed medical directors need more encouragement to take on leadership roles in hospital trusts. [Find out more here](#).



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Video: How we're helping to redesign healthcare provision in England

Dr David Bennett, Monitor's Chief Executive, explains how our values underpin how we'll help to 'turbo-charge' change in the NHS. [Watch the video.](#)

Monitor welcomes CMA's swift decision on NHS foundation trusts' merger

We believe better care for patients should be the outcome of the clearance by the Competition and Markets Authority of a merger between two NHS foundation trusts. [Read more here.](#)

Changes to the way we receive advice on competition

We have changed the way we get advice on competition issues, appointing 2 experts to provide the advice as part of our routine decision-making processes.

The experts' advice to our senior team and board will replace the formal, stand-alone advisory panel, known as the Co-operation and Competition Panel. [Learn more here.](#)

NHS foundation trusts: surplus and deficits data 2005/06 to 2012/13

The 'NHS foundation trusts: surplus and deficits data 2005/06 to 2012/13' is a summary of the overall annual surplus/deficit position of NHS foundation trusts for the last nine financial years. [Find out more here.](#)

Community services questionnaire – for commissioners

We're asking commissioners to let us know how they're working to improve community services for patients through a survey open until 6 June. Our goal is to develop a national picture, identifying the challenges and innovative approaches to deliver these services, and to use this to develop support for commissioners considering new models of care in future.



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Well-led framework for governance reviews: guidance for NHS foundation trusts

In our '[Risk assessment framework](#)' we set out our expectation that NHS foundation trusts carry out an external review of their governance every three years. [The 'Well-led framework for governance reviews'](#) aims to support foundation trusts in gaining assurance that they are well led, to help you continue to meet patients' needs and expectations in a sustainable manner under challenging circumstances. The document takes into account [responses to our consultation on governance reviews](#) (from January to March 2014).

Learn how we will work with the Care Quality Commission and the NHS Trust Development Authority to assess how well led organisations are [here](#).

Special measures explained

[Our guide to special measures](#) - developed with the Care Quality Commission and NHS Trust Development Authority - describes how the special measures programme works for NHS trusts and foundation trusts.

Our new approach to transactions: consultation responses and next steps

In January this year we consulted the sector on a number of proposed changes to both how we work with NHS foundation trusts planning transactions and our approach to transactions generally. [This document](#) summarises the proposed changes, the feedback we received on them and the next steps.

Asset register

Read – '[The asset register and disposal of assets: guidance for providers of commissioner requested services](#)'. The document provides guidance on what comprise 'relevant assets' and on the principles in establishing and maintaining the register of relevant assets. It also outlines our approach to disposals of commissioner requested services assets when a provider has been notified that it is at risk of not being a going concern.



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NHS Confederation Annual Conference – 4 June – visit our stand

We're joining partners - NICE, NHS England, the Care Quality Commission and NHS Trust Development Authority - at this annual event. Visit us at stand number A7. [More here.](#)

Free CEO/ Chair induction – 19 June

Are you a newly appointed chair or chief executive of an NHS foundation trust or perhaps you have no prior experience of our foundation trust authorisation process? If so, register for our **free CEO/Chair induction day on 19 June**. 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

Executive Directors Programme – 1 to 3 July

Sponsored by the Foundation Trust Network, this programme explores the role of the executive director in today's challenging healthcare environment and combines practitioner and research-based insight from both the public and private sectors into ways to develop and support effective Boards. [Find out more and book here](#) by 31 May.

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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Messages from Jeremy Hunt to NHS staff

In Dementia Awareness Week, the Secretary of State for Health speaks about what is being done to tackle dementia. [Read the message here.](#)

Earlier this month, the Secretary of State for Health reflected on how the NHS treated more patients than ever thanks to the willingness and commitment of staff. [Find out more here.](#)

Delivering cancer waiting times: a good practice guide

The NHS Interim Management and Support's latest publication, '[Delivering Cancer Waiting Times: A Good Practice Guide](#)' provides a comprehensive guide to how organisations can develop and deliver effective cancer pathways that are in line with national guidance and national cancer waiting times standards.



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Monitor update: our monthly newsletter

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Our latest job opportunities

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