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Financial Special Measures to bring about rapid improvement at NHS trusts

Five challenged NHS providers have been placed in Financial Special Measures by NHS Improvement in order to bring about rapid improvement in their finances.

Today, NHS Improvement and NHS England have unveiled a suite of new measures for providers and commissioners to restore financial discipline and help ensure ongoing financial sustainability for the NHS.

Providers in Financial Special Measures will undergo a rapid review and agree a financial recovery plan. Specialist teams, led by an NHSI-appointed Improvement Director, will oversee intensive, accelerated action to bring about financial improvement including support from peer providers where appropriate. This action could also include removal of autonomy over key spending decisions or, possibly, changes in leadership at providers.

Stephen Hay, Deputy Chief Executive at NHS Improvement said:

“This suite of measures will help ensure that the providers facing the greatest financial challenges are supported to bring about rapid financial recovery, while maintaining or improving quality. This plan is intended to restore financial discipline and ensure ongoing financial sustainability across the whole NHS.”

The NHS providers placed in Financial Special Measures today are:

- Barts Health NHS Trust;
- Croydon Health Services NHS Trust
- Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust;
- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; and
- North Bristol NHS Trust.

These providers have placed in Financial Special Measures, either because they have not yet agreed a financial control total with NHS Improvement, and are forecasting significant deficits for 2016/17, or because they have agreed the control total but have a significant variance it and are forecasting significant deficits.

In order to leave Financial Special Measures providers will need to demonstrate rapidly that they are returning to financial discipline, including by having developed a robust financial recovery plan.

Once out of Financial Special Measures, NHS Improvement will continue to work extremely closely with the provider to ensure that improvements are lasting and that recovery plans are properly carried out.

Financial Special Measures sits alongside Special Measures for quality. NHS Improvement expects providers to address finance challenges with the same urgency as special measures requires for problems with quality of care.

Providers in financial special measures will be expected to maintain, and where possible, improve standards of quality during and after their financial recovery.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- For further information please contact Kirk Millis-Ward, Acting Head of News, on 02037470208 or press.office@nhsimprovement.nhs.uk
- An overview of Financial Special Measures for providers and commissioners is available [here](#).
- [NHS Improvement](#) is responsible for overseeing foundation trusts, NHS trusts and independent providers. We offer the active support these frontline providers need to give patients consistently safe, high quality, compassionate care within local health systems that are financially sustainable. By holding providers to account and, where necessary, intervening, we help the NHS to meet its short-term challenges and secure its future.
- NHS Improvement brings together Monitor, the NHS Trust Development Authority plus groups from three other organisations: from NHS England both the Patient Safety Team and the Advancing Change Team, from NHS Interim Management and Support two Intensive Support Teams, together with the National Reporting and Learning System team. NHS Improvement is an operational name for the organisation which formally comes into being on 1 April 2016.
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