



PRESS STATEMENT

14 January 2016

CQC's proposed fee increase: investment in frontline care must remain the priority

In its [response](#) to the close of the consultation into the Care Quality Commission's proposals to increase fees, Miriam Deakin, head of policy, NHS Providers, said;

"The Care Quality Commission's (CQC) role in regulating the quality of care is fundamental in ensuring that national standards of safety and quality are met. It is essential that the CQC is appropriately funded to deliver its regulatory duties in a sustainable manner.

"However the current approach being taken to ensure the CQC's sustainability risks placing undue burden on an overstretched health and care system. The CQC has been asked by government to move to a model where it recovers the full costs of its regulatory activities from the providers it regulates and it has been consulting on whether to do so over two or four years. A separate consultation from the Department of Health is proposing to expand the activities on which CQC can charge providers a fee. In addition CQC is still finalising its new strategy for 2016-21 in which it proposes a range of changes and improvements to how it regulates care.

"NHS providers are facing unprecedented financial challenge, tasked to deliver ambitious efficiency savings and to transform patient care. In this context, we find CQC's proposed fee increases of up to 75% for an individual provider disproportionate and unrealistic. Based on current projections in the consultation, in 2016/17 the proposed increase would be equivalent to every NHS provider losing one senior nurse on the four year trajectory to full cost recovery, or two senior nurses, in the case of the two-year trajectory.

"While our members have welcomed aspects of the CQC's approach to regulation, we receive consistent feedback that the scale of CQC's current inspection model is not always appropriately targeted, and that NHS providers do not feel the regulator always provides value for money. CQC will address many of these issues in its forthcoming five year strategy.

"We are yet to be persuaded of the benefits of adopting full cost recovery for regulation in the NHS. We strongly favour CQC deferring its approach to full cost recovery until it has finalised its new five year strategy and until the Department of Health has concluded its consultation on proposals to expand what the regulator can charge for.

"We welcome CQC's engagement with the sector on the proposed changes to the fees. We look forward to continuing to work with CQC on this issue, and to ensuring the priority focus remains on CQC's aim to ensure people are provided with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care."

Ends

Notes to editors

About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has more than 90% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
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