

Monitor's Consultation on the 2015/16 National Tariff Payment System

The Royal College of Nursing submission

1. Monitor is undertaking its statutory consultation on the National Tariff Payment System for 2015/16.¹ This builds on a range of early engagement activities that the RCN has already responded to.²
2. The RCN is not a 'relevant' provider or commissioner for the purposes of the statutory consultation, however we remain an interested party as payment issues affect our membership through the funding of services that they work in.
3. The RCN has consistently highlighted efficiency requirements as being too high. This runs the risk of placing too much pressure on the service, with the consequence of failing to deliver the safe, effective and compassionate care that patients and their carers deserve.³ Although 3.8% is not as high as the 5% at the top of the range that Monitor sought views on, it remains a challenge to deliver.
4. The RCN previously said that money held back under the marginal rate emergency tariff must be re-invested.⁴ Re-investment is vital if we are to make the changes to services and support patients out of hospitals. Just as the NHS Confederation has highlighted, we don't want to see this as a way for NHS England to transfer risk to others in the system, and not invest in services.⁵
5. The RCN acknowledges the continued work of Monitor and NHS England on the development of better data to underpin National Tariff. A key issue from our perspective is the need to ensure that patient dependency and the resulting need for sufficient quality nursing input is clearly captured in the approach to setting National Tariff. Although we believe that this is improving over time, particularly supported through the HFMA's work on acute costing standards, more work needs to be done to make this a reality.

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/379076/NTPS_ConsultationNotice_26Nov.pdf

²

http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/591311/63.14_RCN_Response_NHS_National_Tariff_Payment_System_201516_engagement_documents.pdf

³

http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/546606/91.13_RCN_Response_New_rules_for_the_2014-15_NHS_Payment_System.pdf

⁴

http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/525685/35.13_RCN_submission_Emergency_admissions_marginal_rate_review.pdf

⁵ <http://www.nhsconfed.org/health-topics/nhs-finances/2015-16-national-tariff>

6. The RCN questions why Monitor is using a scenario estimate for pay drift when we are aware that the Department of Health already has a model. We believe using the Department of Health's model would be more transparent. The RCN calls for greater clarity regarding the pay bill assumptions because this will be an additional pressure on top of the proposed efficiency savings that have said are already too high. Without this mechanism there are risks providers will make staffing decisions about numbers and grades for purely affordability reasons that will risk undermining both quality and safety of care as well as efforts to recruit and retain staff.

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