

## What is the Health Finance Forum?

The mission of the health forum is to provide timely and relevant events for health finance practitioners covering the challenges of the health finance agenda. Events are open to paying delegates and there is also a pre-pay membership option which is detailed later in this document. The health events are delivered by associates who have detailed knowledge and experience of the Health Service. The stated intention of the forum is to provide health finance professionals with enhanced knowledge, awareness and practical ideas to address the very latest financial management challenges they will need to face.

The Health forum facilitates small, focused and highly practical workshops and through this approach it maximises the development of knowledge for delegates and provides them with clear practical advice in assisting them to respond to the challenges they face. Our workshops are held in a number of regional locations, including Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and London. In doing so, we intend to improve accessibility through reducing the cost and time of travel for those wishing to attend.

In 2009, five series of events were delivered, to nearly 400 delegates. Specific events covered the following topics; service line management, payment by results, detailed introduction to HRG4 and PBR, service line reporting for non-acute managers and reference costing. All these events proved to be very popular with delegates and culminated in the event materials being included on the health forum website <http://www.cipfanetworks.net/health/> as downloads under the "Events Materials" heading.

## The Changing Context of Health

All the major political parties have vowed to ring fence the £115bn annual NHS budget. After several years of real annual resource growth for Health the future looks less certain. Protecting the existing budget is one thing but accurately predicting how it will increase over the coming months and years is quite another. Although the government has said the health budget would not be cut, analysts say that even with "zero real growth" the NHS will face a shortfall of £20bn by 2013 – a gap that will grow to £38bn by 2016. This presents health finance professionals with huge challenges.

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Recent Research by The Guardian\Civitas has indicated that more than a third of NHS primary healthcare trusts, which fund hospitals in England, are running deficits that have led to a cutback in surgical operations and seen calls to close casualty departments. The analysis, used figures from the public board meetings of 100 trusts, and shows a potential overspend in 09/10 of circa £130m. The Department of Health has warned trusts they cannot enter the new financial year in the red and health authorities which do not cut costs face repaying cash from next year's budget or being subjected to central control. Within such a context – the strengthening of financial management and control within the health sector becomes even more important for health finance professionals to deliver upon.

## Main themes and activities for 2010\11

For 2010\11, the NHS costing and financial performance agendas will form the cornerstones of the programme for the Health forum. PbR and how it reflects the national audit of reference costs will be very important throughout the year. Specifically it is envisaged that the following programme of events will be delivered:

### **Detailed introduction to PbR and HRG4 – How does it work? – June\July 2010**

This interactive learning workshop will provide an essential introduction to PbR and commissioning based on HRG4. The primary objective for the day will be to ensure delegates get to grips with HRG4, how it is structured and links with the 2010/11 national tariff. We will also focus on key areas of national PbR guidance. An essential workshop for those who need to get up to date on PbR and HRG4, or those new to commissioning in the NHS.

### **Patient level costing (PLICs) for non acute providers – a practical workshop – October 2010**

This focussed and interactive workshop will review the experiences of non acute providers (including PCT and mental health providers), in developing patient level costing, and the different approaches that have been taken by non acute organisations to date, to achieve their own organisational objectives. The day will facilitate delegates to draw conclusions around the best approach for developing PLICs within their own organisation.

**Introduction of Quality Accounts in Health – November 2010** – The introduction of the Quality accounting arrangements in Health and their associated audit arrangements will form a significant change in approach for health finance practitioners. The quality accounts sessions will draw on the lessons of this year's round of Quality Accounts audits at Foundation Trusts. Grant Thornton, accountants, business advisors and partners to the CIPFA Health Forum, will lead on the delivery of this series of events.

### **PbR and HRG4 – preparing for 2011/12 – January 2011**

This practical workshop will focus on preparing for commissioning in 2011/12, looking at the PbR tariff and key areas of the supporting guidance in detail, highlighting key changes and discussing aspects of the policy that are unclear. The objective for the day will be to ensure delegates are confident in their understanding of national guidance and able to locally develop robust contract agreements for 11/12.

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**Service Line Reporting – February\March 2011** – The development of service line reporting in health and its relationship with segmental reporting will be analysed in this series of events. This series will point to the approaches required to optimise the effectiveness of both these forms of reporting. Grant Thornton, accountants, business advisors and partners to the CIPFA Health Forum, will lead on the delivery of this series of events.

Current and future events available for all to attend, to avoid disappointment, please reserve your place at our upcoming events as soon as possible. For more information about the Health Forum please contact Dean Henry on 020 8667 8578 or [Dean.Henry@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:Dean.Henry@cipfa.org.uk)

Details of all our Health forum events can be found at:  
<http://www.cipfanetworks.net/health/events/>

The cost of attending one of our events is currently £375 + vat per delegate. On-line booking is available through our web site at the above address. Authorities have the option to bulk buy places in advance at a considerable saving on buying them individually. Currently, the pricing structure for bulk buying Health forum places is as follows:

4 places -- £1,235

8 places -- £2,265

12 places -- £3,295

If authorities do buy places in bulk, they will be allowed to use them at CIPFA professional training events as well as the aforementioned health series.

### **Access to CIPFA Professional Training Events**

From April 2010 organisations that have purchased delegate places in advance from the Health forum will now be able to use their pre-paid places to attend any CIPFA Leadership or Finance Professional Training event.

During 2010 this new partnership arrangement with CIPFA Training will open up numerous personal and professional development opportunities. It is a key development in our attempts to maximise the flexibility and value for money now available to all of our purchasers of pre-paid places at this most crucial time of tighter resources and reduced departmental budgets.

More detail about these CIPFA Training courses can be found by clicking on the following link:  
[www.cipfanetworks.net/training/portfolio](http://www.cipfanetworks.net/training/portfolio)

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### Venues

There will be four principal venues utilised for our series of 2010\11 events, as follows: –

- London
- Leeds
- Manchester
- Birmingham

## The Future of the Health Finance Forum

CIPFA has tried to provide an event based service offering for health finance practitioners with some degree of success however we would like to hear from delegates past and present about their views on what type of service offerings you would like us to provide.

Please contact:

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If you wish to share your views on the future of the CIPFA Health Forum.

### How to Contact The Health Finance Forum

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For General Enquiries on the Forum please contact:

Dean Henry on 020 8667 8578 or

e-mail **[Dean.Henry@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:Dean.Henry@cipfa.org.uk)**

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