



# Introduction to Costing in the NHS

18 September, London

## Agenda

This regional networking and training event has been designed specifically for those new to costing or those that will benefit from an overview of costing and its role in the NHS. The event will provide delegates with an introduction to costing, why we cost and will provide some insight into the costing process.

You will hear about the National Cost Collections (formerly the Costing Transformation Programme) and the importance of accurate costing information to the wider NHS. The day will conclude with a session on how costing information can be used to help inform decision making.

**10:00 Registration**

**10:30 Chair's welcome and introductions**

*Sonal Parmar Amin, Finance Manager – SLR and PLICS, Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*

**10:35 Introduction to costing in the NHS**

*Sonal Parmar Amin, Finance Manager – SLR and PLICS, Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*

Collecting, analysing and understanding the cost of NHS patient care is vitally important in making decisions about how to manage and deliver sustainable high-quality services. This session will introduce the key concepts of patient-level costing, including:

- What is costing
- Why costing is important
- Why we collect costing information
- The role of a costing practitioner
- Other professionals' roles in costing

**11:00 The changing landscape of costing in the NHS**

*Jack Hardman, Costing and Engagement Lead, NHS England and Improvement*

Costing in the NHS is transforming, moving from costing based on averages to costing the actual care individual patients receive. All acute trusts are required by NHS England and NHS Improvement to calculate their costs at patient-level, and over the next couple of years the same will be true for mental health, community and ambulance services. In this session, Jack will explain why this transformation is taking place, the implementation of patient-level costing and the variances between sectors.

**11:30 Refreshments and networking**

**11:50 Costing process in focus – reconciliation**

*Donna Pannell, Costing Improvements Manager, NHS England and Improvement*

It is crucial that the total expenditure used for costing can be reconciled to the annual accounts and board papers so that senior teams recognise the figures and are confident with the integrity of the costs. This session will cover, at an introductory level, the adjustments in the reconciliation, where they need to reconcile to and a brief understanding of the accounts. It will also provide hints and tips on how to complete and check your reconciliation, as well as examples of errors and issues from our reviews.

**12:30 Lunch and networking**

**13:00 Troubleshooting common technical challenges**

*Jack Hardman, Costing and Engagement Lead, NHS England and Improvement and Donna Pannell, Costing Improvements Manager, NHS England and Improvement*

This session will run through a number of 'frequently asked questions' about costing in the NHS and common challenges relating to the National Costing Collections. It will provide advice about navigating these challenges and signpost available resources that can support your journey.

**13:30 Interactive session – the wider role of costing**

*Chaired by Sonal Parmar Amin, Finance Manager – SLR and PLICS, Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust*

Delegates will be given a selection of scenarios based on the wider challenges of costing from data quality to its use in organisational decision-making. Delegates will be asked to discuss these on their tables and aim to identify some personal actions and ways to progress in these areas as well as discussing the challenges themselves.

**14:00 Refreshments and networking**

**14:20 Making the most of patient-level data**

*Helena Strong, Costing Project Accountant, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust*

Reporting accurate patient-level costing data into a national database isn't the only reason to cost using PLICS, and increasingly is not even the main reason. Organisations with PLICS are now starting to analyse and interpret their data locally to make important decisions about their services. This session will look at how organisations can use costing information to help make improvements to patient care.

**15:00 Close**

