

HealthCare Finance on Critical List

The news concerns the present day conditions of the health care finance which is deteriorating day by day attributed to inappropriate allocation and utilization of finances by the concerned authorities and the rising debts of the organizations. The news is concerning the NHS South West's Claims stating the conditions of health services organizations comprising the cut down in jobs, reduction in the number of services available, cash shortfalls, close down of the use of agency staff, cut down of some 24-hr emergency, canceling of same day surgeries etc. The organizations include the Devon and Cornwall hospital, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth and North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple, West Cornwall Hospital.

RCHT and Northern Devon Healthcare Trust has been mentioned to be the major challenges whereby and a further loss of about 2,000 jobs across the South West has been projected as the trusts fight to deal with debts totalling £162.45 million. RCHT witnesses the hopeless financial setting amidst a number of painful attempts made to balance the books and huge number of redundancy notices along with the cancelled operations and was ascribed to the trust's reckless spending. The projected consequences were however deferred by the health chiefs who refused to reveal any plans.

It has been criticized that treatments are paid for in advance by the central government without determining that the number of jobs paid for are taken up and regardless of success rates. The financial conditions have affected the delivery of services and at the same time have lowered the moral of the staff.

It has been alleged that issues so identified relates to either the mismanagement of local authorities or deals with a national structure that does not go well with some local needs.

It has been argued by some that the need of the hour is a structural procedure for NHS to work on in order to combat the current financial melancholy. Unison commented that it is the fostered privatization of NHS by the Government that has influenced the resources in the region.

As a solution, the stress has been put on the rise of private sector-owned independent treatment centres to carry out non-emergency surgery and diagnostic procedures. A complete reversal of privatization has been desired for the national health service with least interference from the government as health care has turned more of a business form than a service.

The reader personally did not undergo any such quagmire. But to illustrate a direct experience, the reader noticed a case whereby the patient (a close friend of the reader) was undergoing a treatment for a dreadful disease receiving strong radiation therapy at a primary care home in his country. Unfortunately, because of the care home being non-operational, the patient had to travel to another state, miles away, for receiving the same therapy. This raised his expenses drastically and effected him in some other ways as well.

Though impersonal, the experience effected the reader in a very negative way who fears that negligence and unusual intervention of the government may result in deprivation of the public from their valuable services. It can be thus implied from the example that Government must allocate the resources optimally and then keep its hands off to let the privatized tasks go on smoothly. This can be done by changing the attitude of management that should turn away from self making NHS a business and should look at NHS as a service provider set up for the community welfare.

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