

# National Health Service

The four publicly funded health care systems in the countries of the United Kingdom are referred to as the National Health Service (NHS).

The NHS is entering a third decade of administrative turbulence and cost pressures and many view the new NHS structure and systems as complex and confusing. Health and social care budgets are being merged in some geographical areas and large efficiency savings are needed by 2020.

There are risks that lie ahead for neurosurgery and the patients if the specialty becomes further fragmented and opportunities for positive change are missed. One of the new care models proposed in the NHS five year plan is specialist care provided across multiple hospital sites by a single overarching specialist trust, mirroring ophthalmology where the Moorfields trust provides specialist eye services in over 20 locations in London and the South East. This model lends itself to adoption by neurosurgery and has the potential to increase standards, efficiency, training and research <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Bell BA. Opportunities and dangers for neurosurgery in the current NHS. Br J Neurosurg. 2015 Oct 21:1-5. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26488224.

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