

PSA position: on the regulation of NHS Managers

The need for strengthened accountability of NHS managers has been much debated. Below you can find the PSA's thoughts on recent developments and Government proposals.

Context

Successive inquiries have identified a need for professional standards for NHS leaders and managers. The UK Government has recently announced new regulatory measures for senior NHS managers in England, following a public consultation at the end of 2024.

Our position

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) welcomes the UK Government's **announcement** to strengthen regulation and support for NHS managers in England. We recognise the potential of a barring scheme for NHS managers to enhance accountability and restore public trust. As the first barring scheme of its kind in UK health and care regulation, this presents an opportunity to expand the range of measures as part of the UK Government's 'regulatory toolkit.'

Barring scheme

Barring enables action to be taken after failings having occurred. To make the most of this opportunity to improve quality of care and public confidence, it must be part of a broader framework that includes proactive support and prevention. To this end, we strongly welcome that the UK Government has committed to a wider package of measures to strengthen both accountability and support which includes the leadership and management framework being developed by NHS England, and the establishment of a new College of Executive and Clinical Leadership.

Accreditation to support professionalism

Noting that accreditation will be considered to recognise the professionalism of NHS managers and leaders, we urge the UK Government to consider use of the PSA's Accredited Registers programme for assurance of organisations setting standards for managers and leaders not initially covered by the barring scheme.

Next steps/call to action

The PSA looks forward to continuing to work with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England to support successful introduction of the new measures. We encourage continued collaboration with wider stakeholders about their design and implementation so that questions such as dual registration can be addressed. We also hope there will be discussion with the Governments for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales about how consistency of accountability and support across the UK can be best achieved.

Further reading

You can read more about what the PSA has said about the regulation of NHS managers in our **[response to the DHSC's consultation](#)**.

Contact us

Please contact our Policy Team for further information:
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