

To: Regional General Managers
District General Managers
Chief Executives of NHS Trusts
Chief Executives of the London Postgraduate Teaching Hospitals
Copy:FHSA General Managers

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Dear Colleague,

Capital allocations for day surgery and medical equipment

1. Ministers have announced £30 million additional capital in 1992-93 for the expansion of day surgery facilities and the provision of whole body scanners and other medical equipment. This will be the first phase of a three year rolling programme to expand patient care in these important areas. £15m will be available for day surgery and £15m for medical equipment.

Day surgery

2. Day surgery funds will be made available to regions on the basis of population share as set out in Annex A. We are expecting regions to match these allocations £ for £. The NHS ME will expect RHAs to use these funds to expand the availability of dedicated day surgery units, irrespective of whether they are provided by NHS Trusts or directly managed units, and with regard to improving the balance of services within regions. Regions should submit plans for using these additional resources, including details of benefits to patients, to their PMD Team by 31 January 1992. Subject to plans meeting the above criteria, the additional funds will be added to regions' capital allocations from 1 April 1992.

Medical Equipment

3. To gain full advantage of the benefits of central purchasing, the additional funds for medical equipment will be held centrally. Regions and NHS Trusts are invited to bid against these. The equipment will be purchased centrally on their behalf after full consultation with the regions and NHS Trusts concerned. The funding is available for whole body scanners, linear accelerators, dose area product meters and clinical mammography units. Details, including bidding arrangements, are set out in Annex B. Bids should be submitted through PMD Teams or the Management Executive Trusts Unit as appropriate no later than 31 January 1992. We expect to announce successful bids by the end of February 1992. Arrangements for future years will be considered in the light of bids received, experience in 1992-93, and available resources.

Special Health Authorities

4. London Postgraduate Teaching SHAs are invited to submit bids against both allocations to the same timetable. These should be addressed to the Management Executive's SHA Management Unit.

Additional capital for the expansion of day case units

	£000s
Northern	995
Yorkshire	1,163
Trent	1,460
East Anglian	633
N W Thames	990
N E Thames	1,107
S E Thames	1,140
S W Thames	867
Wessex	914
Oxford	715
South Western	1,052
West Midlands	1,612
Mersey	761
North Western	1,290
SHAs	300
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Total	15,000

On the same basis as capital allocations for 1992/93.

Capital allocation for medical equipment

Purpose

1. £15 million is being made available in 1992/93 for the purchase of:
 - CT or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) whole body scanners;
 - linear accelerators (to bring forward planned replacement of radiotherapy equipment);
 - dose area product meters (to monitor dose reduction techniques[†]);
 - replacement clinical mammography units (to match quality standards recommended under the National Breast Screening Programme).
2. The priority is to improve patient access to these facilities and to replace outdated or difficult to maintain equipment. The funds are intended solely for capital equipment costs.

Bids

3. Bids are invited for 1992/93 and each of the following two years. Additional funding for 1993/94 and 1994/95 will of course be dependent on available resources, but for planning purposes, it should be assumed that the sums available are likely to be broadly similar to 1992/93.
4. Bids should:
 - demonstrate service requirements, based on population needs and the standard of existing facilities;
 - specify the type of equipment required;
 - confirm that running costs will be separately met; and,
 - in the case of replacement items, provide details of the nature, age, condition and maintenance requirements of equipment and current plans for its replacement.
5. DMUs should submit bids through their DHAs to RHAs. Regions should prioritise the bids and send them to their PMD Team by 31 January 1992. NHS Trusts and London SHAs should send their bids direct to the Management Executive Trusts Unit or the SHA Management Unit, as appropriate, by the same date.
6. Successful bids will be ranked in order of priority and funded from the available capital programme. In order to optimise the financial advantage of bulk purchase, procurement will be co-ordinated through the NHS Supplies Authority's National Purchasing Unit.

[†] See National Radiological Protection Board and Royal College of Radiologists: "Patient Dose Reduction in Diagnostic Radiology" (1990)