Update on student bursary arrangements from September 2012

The rules surrounding the new bursary arrangements for pre-registration nursing students starting their training programmes from September 2012 have been announced. There will be a complete overhaul of the current student nurse bursary package that will see support changing to a grant of £1,000 plus a means tested bursary (the maximum amount varies depending on location of study and length of course), and access to a non-means tested student loan.

The Department of Health [DH] have stated that:

Eligible students will all have access to the same package of financial support from September 2012 irrespective of their course. From September 2012, all new eligible students will be eligible for a £1,000 grant. They will also be eligible for a means tested bursary and a maintenance loan. A healthcare student on an eligible course of 45 weeks in duration and studying outside of London could receive a non-means tested grant of £1,000, a means tested bursary of up to £4,395 and a non-means tested loan of up to £2,324.

The paper can be downloaded at: www.kingsfund.org.uk/document.rm?id=9190.

Operational Guidance to the NHS — extending patient choice of provider

Any qualified provider

This paper sets out guidance from the DH for choice of provider for services. Since 2010, the Government has been committed to increasing the choice of providers for users of NHS services. They refer to this as ‘any qualified provider’, which means that when patients are referred for certain types of treatment, usually by their GP, the patient should be able to choose from a list of qualified providers that meet NHS quality service requirements. It is suggested that this will extend patient choice, empower patients and carers, improve outcomes and service while promoting innovations.

In this paper, section 2.1, ‘Key principles of an Any Qualified Provider approach’ the DH have provided the following principles:

- Commissioners set local pathways and referral protocols which providers must accept
- Referring clinicians offer patients a choice of qualified providers for the service being referred to
- Competition is based on quality, not price. Providers are paid a fixed price determined by a national or local tariff.

The DH intend to phase in this concept of any qualified provider during 2010/13. They have identified a range of services, including:

- Musculoskeletal services for back and neck pain
- Adult hearing services in the community
- Continence services (adults and children)
- Diagnostic tests closer to home such as some types of imaging, cardiac and respiratory
- Investigations to support primary assessment of presenting symptoms
- Wheelchair services (children)
- Podiatry services
- Venous leg ulcer and wound healing
- Primary care psychological therapies (adults).

The paper can be downloaded from: http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/any-qualified-provider.

References

