

For the Record – Press Statement

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Headline	Missed NHS targets lead to £3m fines
First paragraph/s of article	Dudley’s hospital trust has been fined more than £3 million in the past two years for missing national NHS targets, new figures reveal.

Trust response

COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The fines are in relation to the NHS Standard Contracts and are paid to Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The NHS Standards Contract can be viewed on the NHS England website. The links to the 2013/14 and 2014/15 NHS Standards contract are:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/13-14/>

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/14-15/>

The descriptions of the quality requirements can be found in the ‘Particulars’ document. The circumstances of when fines are payable are included within the above documents.

Like all NHS trusts we sign up to the national NHS Standard Contracts. The CCG are obliged to levy fines in accordance with that contract if the Trust fails to meet Government set national targets. The value of the targets and fines applied changes from year to year. We have an arrangement with the CCG that the fines money is reinvested back into the Trust for the benefit of patient care locally, which is positive.

The Trust strives to give the best most responsive service it can to patients and the levying of fines does not drive improvement in our organisation; it is the hard work and commitment of staff which does that.

As an example, in 2014/15 we narrowly missed the target to see, treat, admit or discharge patients within four hours of arrival in A&E (94.68% of patients against a target of 95%) and incurred a fine of £192,000. However, in 2015 we have exceeded the target for the last three quarters in a row making us one of the best performing trusts in the country for meeting the A&E standard.

Although in 2014/15 some specialities did not meet the target to treat patients within 18 weeks of a GP referral (RTT), resulting in fines of £335,300, the Trust exceeded the RTT target overall for that year (see below):

Non-admitted patients: 95.43% (target 92%)

Admitted patients: 91.59% (target (90%))

ENDS

For further information please contact the communications team for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via (01384 456111) or email communications@dgh.nhs.uk

Press enquiry

The Express & Star contacted the Trust following a Freedom of Information request relating to The Dudley Group's fines.

Questions:

1. What are the fines for?
2. Who are the fines paid to?
3. In what circumstances are the fines payable?
4. Does the Trust agree with paying the fines?
5. What happens to the money after it is paid to the CCG?