

## NHS Receives £250 Million to Address Waiting Times Ahead of Winter



---

The UK government has announced that it will be providing £250 million in funding to the National Health Service (NHS) in preparation for the winter season. This allocation of funds is aimed at addressing the significant waiting times for treatment.

Thirty NHS organisations will receive the funding across England to expand the capacity of urgent and emergency care services, intended to create an additional 900 beds.

Nevertheless, a leader of a health union has raised concerns about the staffing of these extra beds, highlighting the existing shortage of over 40,000 nurses across the services. Meanwhile, the Labour party has criticised the announcement, describing it as a temporary solution.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said, "Cutting waiting lists is one of my top five priorities, so this year the government has started planning for winter earlier than ever before and the public can be reassured we are backing the NHS with the resources it needs."

The addition of 900 new beds will result in a higher capacity for prompt treatment, meaning more people can be treated and the frustratingly lengthy wait times for medical care can be reduced.

The NHS winter plans aim to build on the progress already made on the urgent and emergency care recovery plan. The goal of this plan is to reduce patient waiting times, and transform healthcare services through the expansion of same-day care and virtual wards, enabling patients to receive care in their own homes whenever feasible.

Unfortunately, the daily workload on nursing staff is reaching an unsustainable point. This situation is leading to a decline in the quality of care received by patients. Furthermore, healthcare workers are experiencing burnout and are on the brink of leaving their profession.

If the government is committed to achieving better outcomes, nursing staff must not be overlooked. They play a crucial role in reducing waiting times and transforming services, and therefore, nurses should be adequately compensated to fulfil plans and ensure the NHS doesn't remain under severe pressure.

Source: [Sky News](#)

Image Credit: [iStock](#)

Published on : Wed, 16 Aug 2023