



Funding Opportunities for Conference

We understand how difficult it can be to secure funding for attending conferences. To try and aid with this we have compiled a list of resources that point to potential funding avenues through the government, NHS England, CPD and others.

You can also **download a letter template** to use when applying for funding from the conference website.

1. Employer or NHS Trust Funding

Most NHS Trusts and private healthcare providers have budgets for **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**, which may cover conference fees, travel, and accommodation.

How to apply:

- Speak to your **line manager, CPD lead, or HR department** about available funding.
- Provide a **business case or justification**, explaining how the conference aligns with patient safety, staff wellbeing, and organisational goals.
- Some NHS Trusts have **learning and development grants** for mandatory training, which may extend to CPD events.

2. NHS & Government CPD Funding

Some NHS bodies offer funding for CPD activities related to patient safety and workforce wellbeing:

- **Health Education England (HEE)** - provides CPD grants for workforce development, which may cover conference costs.
- **NHS Education for Scotland (NES)** - provides CPD funding for healthcare professionals, including those involved in moving & handling, workforce safety, and patient care.
- **Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)** - supports workforce development and CPD training, with potential funding for conferences that align with patient safety and workforce wellbeing.
- **Local NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)** - some offer funding for training that aligns with workforce improvement plans.

How to apply:

- Check your NHS Trust's **Learning & Development or CPD portal**.
- Apply through the relevant funding body, outlining the link between the conference and improving patient and staff outcomes.

3. NHS Workforce Development Grants

- NHS England offers **workforce development funding** to improve staff skills, particularly in areas like patient safety and workplace wellbeing.
- Department of Health Northern Ireland (DoH NI) - provides workforce training grants, which may cover professional development in moving & handling and patient safety.

How to Apply:

- Look for NHS England **workforce transformation funding calls** (often announced via NHS England, HEE, or ICB websites).
- Work with your NHS Trust's **Workforce & Organisational Development team** to submit an application.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

4. Unions & Professional Memberships

If you are a member of a trade union or professional body, funding may be available:

- **Unison & Unite the Union** – Provide CPD grants, particularly for patient safety-related training.
- **Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Foundation** – Offers bursaries for nurses specialising in patient handling and workforce safety.

How to apply:

- Check the union's website for CPD grants.
- Submit an application, which may require evidence of the conference's relevance to your role.

5. NHS England CPD Funding via Health Education England (HEE)

Health Education England (HEE) provides CPD funding to support professional development for NHS staff, including those involved in patient handling, workforce safety, and ergonomics.

How to Apply:

- Check if your role is eligible for CPD funding through your **NHS Trust's Learning & Development (L&D) department** or **CPD lead**.
- Speak to your **line manager** about using allocated CPD funding for conference attendance.
- Apply via your Trust's internal CPD funding process—some Trusts use **HEE's CPD portal**.

◆ **Tip:** Justify the funding request by linking the conference to patient safety, staff wellbeing, and compliance with **Moving & Handling Regulations 1992 (MHOR)**.

6. Research Grants & Charitable Organisations

If you are involved in research or policy development in moving & handling, funding may be available from:

- **The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)** – Supports healthcare professionals presenting research.
- **Health & Safety Executive (HSE) grants** – Occasionally fund projects related to workplace safety.

How to apply:

- Contact your organisation’s **research and development department**.
- Apply through the funding body’s website, providing details of your project or presentation.

USEFUL LINKS:

Education & Training Tariffs 2024/2025 - [Education and training tariffs 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Learning & Development Support Scheme for Employers - [Learning and Development Support Scheme for the adult social care workforce: a guide for employers - GOV.UK](#)

Workforce Development Fund: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-learning-and-development-support-scheme/learning-and-development-support-scheme-for-the-adult-social-care-workforce-a-guide-for-employers>

NHS Education Funding Guide - [NHS Education Funding Guide | NHS England | Workforce, training and education](#)

NHS Scotland – Education & Funding - <https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/education-and-funding>

HEIW - CPD Funding in Wales - <https://heiw.nhs.wales/support/revalidation-support-unit/continuing-professional-development-cpd/>

Department of Health Northern Ireland Grant Funding Scheme - <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/core-grant-funding-scheme-2025-26>

SAS Development Fund for Scotland - <https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/your-development/specialist-and-associate-specialist-doctors-and-dentists/sas-development-fund-application-process/>

Accessing CPD Funding: [Accessing CPD funding | RCN Magazines | Royal College of Nursing](#)

Unison Training & Learning support: <https://learning.unison.org.uk/financial-support/>

NIHR Funding Opportunities: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/starting-a-funding-journey>

Final Tips for a Successful Funding Application:

- ✓ **Apply early** – Funding deadlines vary, so start as soon as possible.
- ✓ **Justify the benefit** – Highlight patient safety, staff wellbeing, and compliance with legislation.
- ✓ **Link to NHS priorities** – Show how attending the conference improves patient care, reduces staff injuries, or enhances compliance with national guidelines – use our **application template**
- ✓ **Apply to multiple sources** – Increase your chances by exploring different funding streams.
- ✓ **Ask your Trust or Organisation for guidance** – Many organisations have dedicated CPD coordinators to assist with applications.