



## 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.

**\*NOTE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT IS 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025 in England\*. [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 2024 to 2025 - 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 2024/2025 - [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.