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Health Policy in Britain

**The Politics and Organisation of the
National Health Service**

Fourth Edition

Christopher Ham

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To Ioanna

Contents

<i>List of Figures and Tables</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>Preface to the Fourth Edition</i>	xiii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xiv
Introduction	1
1 The Development of Health Services and Health Policy	4
Public health services	5
Mothers and young children	6
Health insurance	7
Hospital services	8
The establishment of the National Health Service	10
The structure of the National Health Service	12
The NHS between 1948 and 1974	13
The reorganisation of the NHS	19
The reorganised National Health Service	21
Conclusion	24
2 Health Policy under Thatcher and Major	27
Increasing NHS efficiency	27
Making the NHS businesslike	29
Dealing with the funding crisis	32
<i>Working for Patients</i>	35
The reform of primary care and community care	38
Implementing the reforms	39
The impact of the reforms	45
Streamlining the structure	48
Conclusion	49
3 New Labour and the NHS	51
The inheritance	51
The new NHS	54
The new structure	57

Implementation	61
Integrated care	64
The comprehensive spending review	66
Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	67
Conclusion	70
4 Contemporary Issues in Health Policy	72
The growth of NHS expenditure	72
Raising and spending money in the NHS	76
Public health and health improvement	80
Health care	84
Health and social care	90
Priority-setting	93
Conclusion	96
5 The Policy-making Process in Central Government	97
What is policy?	97
The policy process	99
Limits of the systems model	101
British central government	102
Parliament	104
The Prime Minister and Cabinet	106
Ministers and civil servants	109
Relationships between departments	111
Outside interests	114
Pluralism or corporatism?	115
Conclusion	118
6 Making and Changing Health Policy	120
The Department of Health	120
The policy community	126
The sources of policy inputs	129
Policy analysis in the Department	142
Back to management	145
Conclusion	150
7 Implementing Health Policy	152
The management of the NHS	152
NHS Executive regional offices	153
Health authorities	155
NHS trusts	158
Primary care trusts	159
Special health authorities	160
The role of the DH	160

Professional influences on policy implementation	166
Policy-making in NHS bodies	170
Conclusion	174
8 Monitoring and Evaluating Health Policy	176
The audit explosion	176
Health improvement	184
Access to health care	191
The NHS in the international context	197
Conclusion	202
9 Power in Health Services	203
Marxist approaches	203
Pluralism	204
Structuralist approaches	205
Concepts of health	207
Power, interests and ideology	209
Theories and practice	212
Conclusion	216
<i>Guide to Further Reading</i>	218
<i>Bibliography</i>	221
<i>Index</i>	231

List of Figures and Tables

Figures

1.1	The structure of the NHS, 1948–74	13
1.2	The structure of the NHS, 1974–82	20
1.3	The structure of the NHS, 1982–91	24
2.1	Hospital and community health services: trends in spending, targets and shortfalls	33
2.2	The structure of the NHS in England, 1991–96	40
2.3	The structure of the NHS in England, 1996–99	47
3.1	The structure of the new NHS	58
3.2	Levels of primary care groups	59
3.3	A framework for quality	63
3.4	The structure of the NHS in Scotland	68
4.1	Cost of NHS as percentage of GDP, 1949–98	74
4.2	International comparison of expenditures on health care, 1996	75
4.3	Sources of NHS finance, 1997–98	77
4.4	Distribution of NHS budget, 1997–98	77
4.5	Distribution of hospital and community health services expenditure, 1995–96	78
4.6	Distribution of family health services expenditure, 1996–97	78
4.7	Distribution of health and community health services expenditure by age group, 1995–96	79
4.8	Expectation of life at birth, EU, 1995	85
5.1	A simplified model of a political system	100
6.1	Structure of the Department of Health	121
6.2	Structure of the NHS Executive	123
7.1	NHS Executive regional office boundaries from 1 April 1999	154
8.1	Percentage survival to 1991 of children born since 1950, England and Wales	186
8.2	Prevalence of reported limiting long-standing illness by socioeconomic group, and by age group, Great Britain, 1994	188
8.3	Waiting lists in England and Wales, 1948–96	196
8.4	Health in Europe	198

Tables

2.1	Background of general managers, 1986	31
2.2	The implementation of GP fundholding and NHS trusts	41
4.1	NHS expenditure UK, 1949–96	73
4.2	NHS directly employed staff, 1996, England (WTEs)	79
4.3	A contract for health	83
4.4	The Patient's Charter	86
8.1	NHS performance assessment framework	181
8.2	Life expectancy, England and Wales, 1841–1991	185
8.3	Age-specific mortality rates, by social class, men aged 20–64, all causes, England and Wales, 1991–93	187
8.4	Comparison of mortality rates per million population in England and Wales in 1950 and 1994	190
8.5	Percentage shares of NHS expenditure standardised for need, 1974–87	193

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Preface to the Fourth Edition

This book was originally based on undergraduate and postgraduate courses I taught at Bristol University. The first edition benefited from the comments and suggestions of the students who followed those courses. I am particularly grateful to Laurie McMahon and Andrew Wall for their insights, gained during the first intake of the MSc in Public Policy Studies run by the School for Advanced Urban Studies at Bristol. I would also like to thank former colleagues at the School who commented on draft chapters, most notably Robin Hambleton, Michael Hill, Robin Means, Randall Smith and David Towell. Special mention should also be made of Ken Judge, with whom I jointly taught an undergraduate course in health policy. As editor of the series, 'Studies in Social Policy', in which the first two editions appeared, Ken encouraged me to write *Health Policy in Britain*, and as always was a constructive and critical collaborator.

The fourth edition is based on the same structure as earlier editions but has been completely revised and updated to take account of developments in health services and health policy in the 1990s. I have benefited from the advice and comments of a number of people in the Department of Health and the NHS as well as colleagues at the Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham. I would particularly like to mention the assistance provided by Brigit Ayling and her colleagues in the Centre's library; the support of my assistant, Anne van der Salm; and also the work of Debbie Styer, who incorporated my new text with the original, with the last-minute help of Sue Alleyne and other colleagues. My publisher, Steven Kennedy, was even more patient on this occasion than previously.

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I alone am responsible for the final text.

Solihull

CHRISTOPHER HAM

Abbreviations

AHA	Area Health Authority
ASH	Action on Smoking and Health
BMA	British Medical Association
CHC	Community Health Council
CHI	Commission for Health Improvement
CIP	Cost Improvement Programme
CMO	Chief Medical Officer
CPRS	Central Policy Review Staff
CSR	Comprehensive Spending Review
DCMO	Deputy Chief Medical Officer
DGH	District General Hospital
DGM	District General Manager
DH	Department of Health
DHA	District Health Authority
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Security
DMT	District Management Team
DMU	Directly Managed Units
FHSA	Family Health Services Authority
FPC	Family Practitioner Committee
FPS	Family Practitioner Services
GHS	General Household Survey
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GP	General Practitioner
HAS	Health Advisory Service
HCHS	Hospital and Community Health Services
HIImP	Health Improvement Programme
HMC	Hospital Management Committee
HMO	Health Maintenance Organisation
JCC	Joint Consultative Committee
MAS	Management Advisory Service
MPC	Medical Practices Committee
NAHA	National Association of Health Authorities
NAHAT	National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts
NAO	National Audit Office
NICE	National Institute for Clinical Excellence
NHS	National Health Service
NHSME	National Health Service Management Executive

NHST	National Health Service Trusts
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHE	Office of Health Economics
OPCS	Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys
PACT	Prescribing Analysis and Cost System
PCGs	Primary Care Groups
PESC	Public Expenditure Survey Committee
QALY	Quality Adjusted Life Year
RAWP	Resource Allocation Working Party
RCP	Royal College of Physicians
RGM	Regional General Manager
RHA	Regional Health Authority
RHB	Regional Hospital Board
RL	Regional Liaison
SHA	Special Health Authority
SMR	Standardised Mortality Ratio