

Gateway reference number. 01181

NHS England  
4-8 Maple Street  
London  
W1T 5HD

To: CCG Clinical Leads

Cc: CCG Accountable Officers

February 2014

Dear Colleagues

**Re: National CQUIN for Venous Thromboembolism**

On 20 December 2013 NHS England published planning guidance for commissioners describing its ambition for the years ahead and its ongoing commitment to focus on better outcomes for patients. “*Everyone Counts: Planning for Patients 2014/15 to 2018/19*” sets out a framework within which commissioners will need to work with providers and partners in local government to develop strong, robust five year plans to secure the continuity of sustainable high quality care for all.

The planning guidance makes reference to the fact that venous thromboembolism (VTE) will not be part of the 2014/15 national CQUIN scheme. We write to draw your attention to the fact that **from 1 April 2014, VTE risk assessment will be a National Quality Requirement** and that providers will need to continue to risk assess at least 95% of adults admitted to hospital to avoid a contract sanction being applied. Figures from all providers of NHS-funded acute care are reported through UNIFY and are published monthly on the NHS England website: [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/vte/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/vte/)

With VTE a significant cause of mortality, chronic ill-health and disability in England and as many as half of all cases being associated with hospitalisation, it is vitally important that high quality VTE Prevention underpins the commissioning of services at a local level. We urge commissioners to continue to use relevant contracting levers to ensure compliance with all Contract Service Conditions for VTE that remain unchanged in the 2014/15 NHS Standard Contract, particularly the requirement for undertaking audits of appropriate prophylaxis and the root cause analysis of confirmed cases of hospital-associated thrombosis.

If you have any queries about the National VTE Prevention Programme, please contact the programme manager Helen Morrison: [Helen.Morrison9@nhs.net](mailto:Helen.Morrison9@nhs.net). More information can also be found on the website: [www.vteprevention-nhsengland.org.uk](http://www.vteprevention-nhsengland.org.uk)

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Durkin'.

Dr. Mike Durkin  
National Director of Patient Safety  
NHS England

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roopen Arya'.

Professor Roopen Arya  
Chair VTE Programme Board