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To:  
NHS England Regional Directors  
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23 March 2015

Ref: DJ/JAF/DJ1000

Dear Colleagues,

### **Implementing the 2015/16 GP contract**

This letter signposts the support and guidance available to implement the 2015/16 GP contract changes.

The outcome of contract negotiations on the changes to the national General Medical Services (GMS) contracts from 1 April 2015 were confirmed and set out in earlier NHS England letters, available [here](#).

NHS England remains committed to ensuring a consistent and equitable approach to implementing the changes in Personal Medical Services (PMS) and Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contracts.

We have worked in partnership with NHS Employers, the Department of Health, GPC and other stakeholders to bring together the necessary supporting documents that underpin contracting and delivery of these changes; implementation guidance, amendment regulations and directions, and new standard contracts and variations. A directory of this support with web links is provided in the Annex.

NHS England teams and Clinical Commissioning Groups with roles in commissioning primary medical care services will need to work to amend local contracts and implement the subsequent changes at the earliest possible opportunity, applying the changes with backdated effect from 1 April 2015, including any agreed enhanced services.

In most instances the preferred approach will be to issue the standard contract variation. Agreed enhanced services will require either contract variation or can be accommodated under a standalone APMS contracts.

There will be a further change from 1 October 2015 to implement changes to GMS seniority payments and recycling of these funds into global sum payments. Separate guidance will follow on this change by the end of August 2015.

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The assurance framework for primary medical service contractors will also be updated to incorporate the new contractual requirements, including a revised annual practice self-declaration.

Implementation support for primary medical care contracting is available from the national support centre using the email [England.primarycareops@nhs.net](mailto:England.primarycareops@nhs.net).

Commissioners can also contact Capsticks directly if they have any queries on the legal aspects of the standard contract documentation and assistance with its implementation and use. Email [PMCHelpdesk@capsticks.com](mailto:PMCHelpdesk@capsticks.com) or telephone the Capsticks dedicated helpline on **020 8780 4796**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Jaines', with a short horizontal line underneath.

Deborah Jaines  
Head of Primary Care Policy & Contracts  
NHS England