Gateway Reference 05266:

Publication: Key Facts - Securing Excellence in GP IT Services, 3rd Edition, 2016/18
          (GP IT Operating Model)

Date: 13th May 2016

FAO: CCG Chief Operating Officers, CCG Directors of Finance, Regional DCO Directors of Finance, Regional Heads of Digital Technology, Commissioning Support Units/GP IT Delivery Partners

Dear Colleague

Re: Key Facts - Securing Excellence in GP IT Services, 3rd Edition, 2016/18
    (GP IT Operating Model)

NHS England has published a revision of the GP IT Operating Model, 'Securing Excellence in GP IT Services' 2016/18 https://www.england.nhs.uk/digitaltechnology/info-revolution/digital-primary-care/ for the provision of high quality GP IT support services, which clearly outlines accountabilities and commissioning responsibilities, together with a number of enhancements to core provision to general practice outlined in the 2014/16 2nd edition.

NHS England is accountable for the delivery of GP IT services, but responsibility for the commissioning of GP IT services has been delegated to CCGs in line with directions issued to CCGs by NHS England under the NHS Act 2006 (as amended).

NHS England remains accountable for ensuring that CCGs comply with these responsibilities as outlined within the revised GP IT Operating Model and will through its Regional DCO teams; continue to monitor progress of the delivery of GP IT through appropriate clinical commissioning mechanisms.

The recently released CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework (CCG IAF) provides a greater focus on assisting improvement alongside NHS England's statutory assessment function. The CCG IAF has been designed to supply indicators for adoption in Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) as markers of success and includes the following digital indicators within the sustainability domain:

Area:	Indicator Name:
Paper-free at the point of care	Local digital roadmap in place
	Digital interactions between primary and secondary care

It is anticipated that further insight will continue to be drawn from a range of alternative sources and supplementary indicators, where needed. The Digital Primary Care maturity assurance model, outlined within this briefing, will provide further insight to support local improvement and assessment discussions.

NHS England will retain responsibility for directly commissioning, through its Regional DCO Teams, **Primary Care IT Enabling Services** (PCES) for all primary care contractors providing primary care essential services to a registered list. These are fundamental IT support services including Registration Authority, Information Governance support, Clinical Safety Officer and NHS Mail Administration and should be commissioned from appropriately qualified IT delivery partners based on a service level agreement.

The NHS Mandate 2016/17 outlines the need for an increase in devolved power and control, enabling the development of new models of care, tailored to local needs. The revised GP IT operating arrangements provide increased local flexibilities to enable commissioners to develop and commission digital services that are able to effectively respond to local needs, support emerging models of care, extended working and integration of health and care. These should be aligned with and support delivery of Local Digital Roadmaps and Service Transformation Plans.

Funding Arrangements:

Revised funding arrangements outlined within the 2016-18 GP IT operating model, aim to ensure that CCGs have sufficient local flexibility to commission effective and responsive GP IT services that meet local need, support the development of new models of care, whilst also ensuring:

- Standardised high quality IT services
- Alignment of GP IT operating arrangements with local strategies for primary care
- A foundation to underpin IT provision to enable service transformation

Whilst the overall budget for GP IT remains static for 2016/17, the release of GP IT Transition monies in previous years has enabled uplift on **CCG GP IT revenue allocations** from £146m to £173m, which in real terms provides an uplift of ~18.5%. From 2016/17, GP IT revenue monies will be distributed directly to CCGs to manage locally, through CCG baseline allocations.

The first call on GP IT revenue funding locally, is the provision of 'core and mandated' GP IT services, as outlined in the schedule of services which are expanded for 2016/17.

CCGs and Regional DCO Teams were asked to consider and include GP IT infrastructure requirements for 2016/17 as part of the broader capital planning process for 2016/17. Following a review of the items charged to GP IT capital it has been found that significant numbers do not comply with NHS England capital accounting policy and are under the £250 de-minimus limit for individual networked assets. In order to ensure that NHS England and CCGs comply with accounting policy, revenue allocations are being considered instead of capital for GP IT infrastructure requirements. Existing funding levels will be maintained but capital or revenue funding streams will be confirmed in due course following agreement with Department of Health.

In recognition of the cost pressures in commissioning **Primary Care IT Enabling Services** (PCES) that underpin the use of national strategic systems within primary care, an additional in year allocation of £1.4m was made in 2015/16, specifically targeted at enhancing IG support arrangements. Funding provision for 2016/17, allocated to Regional Teams for the direct commissioning of these services, has been uplifted to £11m (full year effect).

A commissioning specification: **Information Governance support for Primary Care Providers** has been developed to inform and support NHS England's Regions in the commissioning of IG support services for Primary Care providers and to provide an outline structure for contracting purposes. This document together with the financial allocations for commissioning Primary Care IT Enabling Services, have been posted on the Digital Primary Care website at the following link: http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/tsd/sst/it-pc/

Any *financial* queries should be *initially* directed to Regional Finance teams.

Schedule of Services:

A review of the schedule of services within the Operating Model has been undertaken in recognition of the significant progress that has been made in the development and provision of digital services for general practice, which is reflected in the expanded 'business as usual' support provision requirements outlined in **'core and mandated GP IT'**.

Enhanced and **transformational** categories have been added, in response to the changing primary care landscape as outlined in the Five Year Forward View (FYFV). Further information is provided within the detailed service schedule outlined in the appendices to the Operating Model.

Digital Primary Care Maturity Assurance Model:

A Digital Primary Care maturity assurance model has been developed to give an 'outputs' based view of digital maturity across general practice. This will provide local commissioners with intelligence on the levels of digital maturity seen across the local primary care estate, both to assure effective delivery of locally commissioned GP IT services and as an essential element in supporting CCGs in their accountability for digital strategy, Local Digital Roadmaps and the wider Sustainable Transformation Plans (STP).

The information is derived from a wide range of indicators drawn from general practice, CCGs and routine data flows on national digital programmes and clinical system information available through NHS Digital (HSCIC) including the Tracking Data Base.

General practice responses will be captured via the annual e-Declaration data capture exercise, with data already collected for 2016/17. CCGs have been asked to complete a simple online data collection survey in April 2016, which has been piloted and subsequently edited, to reflect feedback.

The data collected will be available via a Digital Primary Care Maturity Assurance portal within the Primary Care Web Tool that CCGs, GPs and NHSE Regions will already be familiar with. The tool will enable interrogation at a Regional, CCG and/or GP practice level, with assessment criteria closely aligned with the NHS Digital Maturity Index (for secondary care supporting Paper Free at Point of Access) and therefore could support a community wide digital maturity view over time.

Future Digital Primary Care Strategy and Operating Arrangements:

The revised GP IT operating model provides support and is aligned to primary care commissioning in order to provide a framework which ensures digital technology fully supports and enables New Models of Care, including new forms of primary care organisations and service integration and also supports delivery of the General Practice Forward View.

Yours sincerely

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