

GP Bulletin

7 April 2017 / Issue 206

About this bulletin

To minimise the number of emails sent to practices, the Local Regional Team is using this weekly bulletin as its main method of communicating with practice managers covering the 370 practices in Bristol, Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The bulletins contain important information for practice managers, which might include requests for information and deadlines, as well as updates on issues relating to GP contracts.

Copies of the bulletins and attachments are available on our website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/medical/dcis/gp-bulletin/>

If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Primary Care Team:

england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net

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Key Deadlines

CQRS declarations for payment in the same month	9 th of each month	Via CQRS
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Sign up for 2017-18 Enhanced Services	13 April 2017	Via Email
Avoiding Unplanned Admissions 2016/17 Component 3 – Reporting Template	30 April 2017	Via Email to england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net

- **Items for all Practices**

New Practice Temporary Closure Application Process

NHS England has introduced a new process for practices to apply for temporarily practice closure from 1st April. Any practice wishing to temporarily close their surgery during core contracting hours, 08:00 to 18:30 needs to apply to NHS England for permission to do so, giving at least 4 weeks' notice.

Please see the new attached form with contractual considerations for Practices on the first tab and the application on the second tab. Please send all completed applications to england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net

QOF Queries

We have received a number of queries from practices about the value of QOF points and some situations where QOF achievement has increased and the national value of points has increased but the overall achievement figure is less than last year.

There are a number of factors which affect the value of the QOF points.

For the clinical domain and Public Health domain where there is a disease register:

Practice Achievement QOF Points Total x £ per point x clinical domain prevalence factor

So it is important to understand that the value of the QOF point is influenced by the national prevalence figure and if that has increased it will mean the value of the QOF point for your practice may fall.

The total value of the clinical and public health domains is then multiplied by the list size factor (CPI adjustment) to come to the total value for the practice.

Over recent years the size of the average England GP Practice has increased and this will also impact on what your practice will receive.

Therefore we advise that you look carefully at your QOF achievement reports for both 2016/17 and 2015/16 and drill down to each clinical area and indicator to see how the prevalence is affecting the value of your QOF points.

If you are happy with the QOF achievement, in that it reflects what your clinical system reports you can declare achievement. If you believe that it is incorrect and want an adjustment made please contact the team on england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net with the relevant information but do not declare achievement unless you are satisfied that it is correct.

Sign up for 2017-18 Enhanced Services

Please see the attached 2017-18 enhanced services sign-up form, for each practice to complete

The form is in excel format and has been automated as much as possible-

- Select your practice code from the drop down list this will populate the other boxes
- Select your choice from the drop down lists in the offered boxes
- Sign the bottom of the form with your name or electronic signature
- There are also hyperlinks on the offers which will take you the service specifications

Please return to our generic email account by **Thursday 13 April**:

england.primarycaremedical@nhs.net

At this stage the form is indicative, as we do not have the full formal guidance and service specifications; however it is important that we have an idea of the various services you wish to offer to your patients, so that we can make the necessary offers on CQRS for example.

Once we have received your forms we will then be able to produce a contract variation to formally confirm the enhanced services you are providing for NHS England.

Enhanced Services 2017/18 Documentation

The service specifications have been published on the [NHS England](#) website for the Public Health Enhanced Services, please refer to these for details of the requirements of the services.

The Technical Requirements 2017/18 document has also been published on the [NHS Employers](#) website (under 'Related Links' on the right-hand side of the page). This document provides the Read codes to be used as well as detailing the payment, management information and cohort count wording as it appears on CQRS. This document will be updated to include new services as the detail becomes available.

- **Items for Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire Practices only**

None

- **Items for Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Practices only**
NIPE referral pathways (for Cornwall Practices only)

The completed NIPE referral pathways, ratified guideline and NIPE news are now available and attached to this bulletin. These are now in use for all babies born in Cornwall from the 1st April onwards.

Immunisation survey

The Screening and Immunisation team are undertaking a survey of GP's and Practice Nurses to inform an immunisation needs assessment across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This will ultimately form part of the locality immunisation group's action plans to improve uptake. We invite you to participate in this survey, please can you share widely within your practice as the more completed surveys we receive the better. Please use the link below, the survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. The survey will be open until the 5th May. Thank you for your time.

<https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=I64I9m3>