

NHS England South (South West)  
Commissioning Directorate (Primary Care)  
Sedgemoor Centre  
Priory Road  
St Austell , Cornwall  
PL25 5AS  
Email address – [julia.cory@nhs.net](mailto:julia.cory@nhs.net)  
Telephone Number – 0113 824 8967

GP Practices  
Via Email

21 June 2016

Dear Colleague,

### **Procurement of new Occupational Health Service for GPs and NHS Dentists**

I am writing to update you about the plans to procure a new occupational health service for GPs and NHS dentists on the Performer list.

NHS England Chief Executive, Simon Stevens, announced plans in September 2015 to introduce a new national service specification for an occupational health service to benefit GPs and NHS dentists across England.

Access to Occupational health services for primary care is currently variable across England, depending on local commissioning arrangements.

NHS England has therefore developed a standard national service specification for occupational health services for GPs and NHS Dentists, in order to support the provision of equitable and accessible services for these performers working across England. This will also help standardise the commissioning of these services by NHS England. Details on which services are included in the national service specification are set out at the end of this letter.

Input was sought from professional representatives in developing the specification, alongside other partners such as those working in occupational health and the General Medical Council.

NHS England South will be procuring these services across the region, with a view to awarding contracts to providers later this year. Following a period of implementation, the intention is to then make these new occupational health services available to primary care performers across all local areas from 1 April 2017, when the new contract/contracts will commence.

If there are any issues that you would like NHS England to consider as part of the procurement of these services then you can provide your comments or feedback to [procurement@swcsu.nhs.uk](mailto:procurement@swcsu.nhs.uk) by 22nd July 2016. In the meantime, existing

local occupational health services will continue to be available to primary care staff in the usual way.

We will make further information available about the procurement process as it progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Cory', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Julia Cory  
Head of Primary Care

Under the new national occupational health service specification NHS England will fund:

- Occupational Health assessments for doctors and dentists on the National Performers List (NPL) and virology, vaccinations and immunisations for doctors (GPs), dentists and optometrists on the NPL.
- Advice on exposure to Blood Borne Viruses for all primary care staff (including trainees) including specialist management of those that have Blood Borne Viruses.
- Where doctors and dentists applying to join the NPL need additional Occupational Health clearance due to a specific health need/s, NHS England will fund an enhanced Occupational Health assessment and fund support for work related health issues once on the list.