LETTER SENT ON BEHALF OF JILL MATTHEWS

Dear Heads of Primary Care and Medical Directors

Re: Information relating to GP pensions

As you may be aware, there are some delays to pension processing affecting colleagues in General Practice. To assure GPs that action is being taken on a number of areas, we have prepared the updates below. I would be grateful if you could cascade this information to CCGs for inclusion in their regular communications out to practices.

NPL2 and 3

Due to the issues being experienced with the processing of National Performer List applications by Capita, NHS England and the NHS Pensions Agency have put in place a number of special arrangements for those GPs who have submitted an NPL2 or NPL3 application which is currently being processed. These applications are required when a GP either moves practice or has a change in status.

Due to the delay in processing of these applications, the pension contributions for these GPs currently have not been processed in the usual timescales. Corrective action, following the processing of the outstanding NPL2 and NPL3, will be undertaken in quarter 1 of 2017/18. Communication on specific actions relating to individual practices will take place directly with affected practices over the coming weeks.

We acknowledge that some GPs will be concerned that this will impact on their pension contributions and/or tax liability. NHS England and the NHS Pensions Agency have agreed the following arrangements:

Individual members’ pension contributions will not be impacted by delays in processing of their pension contributions in PCSE;
Contributions will be corrected in quarter 1 and the benefit will relate to the appropriate year to which the contribution applies;

Action required by GPs: **GPs are not required to do anything at this stage in respect of the pension element.**

SD86 annual statements

NHS England and the NHS Pensions Agency are aware that some GPs are requesting that the old SD86 annual statements are reinstated. These statements were phased out a number of years ago and have been replaced by the annual benefits statement which can be viewed online, annually.

This benefits statement contains all the information that was previously included on the old SD86 form.
Action required by GPs: **GPs can obtain help in accessing their benefits statement by contacting the NHS Pensions Agency member helpline on 0300 3301 346**

We will provide more detail on what other information will be made available to GPs regarding their pension contributions once the quarter 1 reconciliation has been completed.

**Annual Certificates 2015/16**

NHS England is working with the NHS Pensions Agency in order to ensure the recovery of pension contributions in respect of the Annual Certificates relating to the financial year 2015/16. These annual certificates were due for submission to PCSE by 28 February 2017. These certificates are currently being reviewed and processed. The standard process is for any adjustments to be made in respect of outstanding contributions in conjunction with the GMS/PMS/APMS contractual payment to the contractor in March. If this adjustment has not occurred then the GP may make an interim payment on account to be included in the current tax year allowance.

**Action required by GPs:**

In order for contractors to make an interim contribution, the dispensation process is as follows:

- Certificates must have been submitted by cut-off date of 28 February 2017;
- No recovery has been made against the monthly contractual payment in March;
- The outstanding amount covering employees/employers/AVC’s is to be paid to NHS England by electronic transfer by 31 March 2017. NHS England payment details are as follows:
  - Bank Account Name: NHS England
  - Bank Name: Natwest
  - Sort Code: 60-70-80
  - Account Number: 10014896

- The reference to be quoted for such a payment must be the practice code year end 2016 eg A12345YEND2016;
- A breakdown of contributions should be sent to PCSE.enquiries@nhs.net. Please put Breakdown in respect of BACs Payment for 2015-16 Annual Certificates in the email subject title.

This will mean contributions have been made in the tax year 2016 17. This will be classed as an interim payment and will be validated in quarter 1 and any further adjustments will be actioned then.

**Pensions queries**
NHS England is aware that some GPs are experiencing issues and delays when making enquiries to Capita about their pensions and pension payments. We apologise, on behalf of Capita, for any inconvenience caused. This is not reflective of the level of service we commissioned them to provide and, as a result, we are working with Capita to accelerate improvements.
For all pension queries, GPs should contact: -

PCSE – 0333 014 2884 - pcse.enquiries@nhs.net
NHS Pensions Agency member helpline - 0300 3301 346.