



England

Medical Directorate
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Dear colleague,

General Practice Appointment Utilisation Tool

Further to discussions at the last Improving Access Delivery Group, I am writing to confirm that the ongoing rollout of the Apollo prototype General Practice Appointment Utilisation Tool (GPAT) for wave one and two GP Access Fund (GPAF) schemes has been brought to a conclusion at the end of March 2017.

As you are aware, the tool was initially developed to support the national evaluation of wave two GPAF schemes. In addition, we began to roll this out to wave one schemes to support further testing and refinement of the specification and provide monthly data on appointment capacity and utilisation at scheme level.

The wider rollout of GPAT has informed the development of the new General Practice Workload Tool, which will be provided to all general practices in 2017/18 as outlined in the General Practice Forward View. As the initial scoping and development phase for the national GP Workload Tool is now complete, work associated with the prototype GP Appointment Utilisation Tool can now be concluded.

The rollout of the national GP Workload Tool to all general practices will begin from spring 2017. This will initially provide a report for each practice to see their own data which can be used to better understand their appointment activity and how it varies over time, enabling them to better match supply of appointments more closely to demand.

This additional reporting functionality will be provided within GP clinical systems. The first iteration of the practice reporting dashboard has now been completed and systems suppliers will shortly begin rollout to practices for their usage and feedback. This will initially be available to EMIS and TPP systems users (which accounts for around 90% of practices in England) with the reporting dashboard being available to Microtest and Vision practices shortly thereafter. I would be grateful if you could ensure your CCGs are aware of the impending system supplier solution. We will confirm actual delivery dates shortly.

Further information regarding the dashboard, including user guides and other supporting materials, will be provided directly to practices by clinical systems suppliers and we will ensure you are aware when these communications are

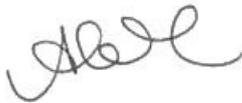
shared. In the longer term and as the tool develops, this will be supported by the NHS England General Practice Development Programme, aimed at responding to the opportunities and challenges identified within the General Practice Forward View and building capacity for improvement directly with practices.

We have asked practices to provide feedback on this first iteration to help refine the tool, and support further development.

I would like to thank you for your support in working with GPAF schemes to implement the GPAT system over recent months. My team will work with Apollo Medical Software Solutions Ltd, suppliers and other key stakeholders over the coming weeks to bring the prototype GPAT project to a successful conclusion, including capturing lessons learned from this project through our 'Celebrating Success' meeting on 23 May 2017. General practices wishing to retain GPAT software on their system are free to do so or alternatively this can be removed if required by contacting the Apollo team on 0191 516 6684 or by email to support@apollo-medical.com.

Please contact the team at england.gpaccess@nhs.net if you have any queries or wish to contribute feedback to be captured as part of lessons learned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Morton', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alex Morton
Director of Commissioning System Change and Public Health Commissioning
NHS England