Dear GP / Practice Manager,

Devon LMC and NHS Devon CCG have been working together to understand the need for various contractual paperwork and agree a way forward that minimises administrative burdens.

Many of you have already completed and returned your LES Contract Novation – thank you. If you have not already done so, please can you sign and return the form as soon as possible. It only needs to be signed by the lead GP for your practice. If you choose to leave the contract reference blank this will be entered by the staff at the CCG on your behalf. This form is a legal requirement as part of the merger of South Devon & Torbay CCG with NEW Devon CCG as it formally transitions your agreement with the former organisation to the new CCG.

You will also have received a National Variation Agreement in relation to the contract you hold with the CCG relating to your LES services (and GPSI services where applicable). Please can you sign this and return as soon as possible. Again, many thanks to those of you who have already done so. This form is issued by NHS England and they make it a requirement to be signed for every contract that was issued in, or before, 18/19 and continues into 19/20. The variation amends the contract to take into account new aspects that were added to the National Contract for 19/20 to ensure all contracts are governed by the same standards. There is no option for local modification to this document. Please use the enclose link if you wish to explore the changes set out in the variation in more detail: https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/19-20/

There are no financial impacts of either of the above documents, save that if they are not signed and returned promptly the CCG will face difficulties ensuring contract payments are made in a timely way.

The CCG will need to issue further documents in the next few weeks and would be grateful that you sign and return as soon as possible.

Firstly, will be local variations to your LES contracts. These are required to take into account revised service specifications and any changes that you have agreed to and which LES services you will be providing from July onwards. The changes outlined in the documentation are those to which you have already reviewed and agreed to. Signing and returning these forms in June will mean the CCG is able to implement new payments from July onwards without disruption.
We also will need to issue the nationally stipulated variation agreement regarding your core primary care services. Although these changes will have taken effect from 1st April 2019, the CCG will only be able to issue the variation once it has received your contracts from NHS E under the delegation arrangements. This is expected to be in June. Further details of the changes can be found here: [https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/investment/gp-contract/](https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfv/investment/gp-contract/)

We apologise for the confusion that sending so many different contract letters may cause. Unfortunately, the timing of events has made this unavoidable. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have any queries. The CCG and LMC will be working together over forthcoming months to develop systems that will be less onerous to complete. An example of this is the electronic portal for signing up and payments for LES which is being developed. Please let us know of any suggestions for improvement we can make.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Procter
Director of Primary care
NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group