

The NHS Standard Contract 2013/14 – key changes from the 2012/13 contract

The 2013/14 NHS Standard Contract looks very different from the previous contract.

The key changes are:

In general:

- The Contract now consists of three sections: the Particulars, the Service Conditions and the General Conditions
- Language has been simplified where possible
- Processes have been simplified
- The Contract reflects the new organisations, structures and regulatory requirements

More specifically:

- The Service Specification template has been updated to reflect a greater focus on outcomes rather than processes
- Quality Requirements are now divided into three sections:
 - Operational Standards (which are derived from NHS Constitution rights and pledges);
 - National Quality Requirements (which are requirements set through the Planning Framework), and
 - Local Quality Requirements (for local determination)
- Mandatory Goods and Services change to Commissioner Requested Services, in line with the new Monitor regime
- Simplification of withholding and/ or discontinuation of service provisions
- Significant changes to activity management and planning processes, including a requirement for early warning by either party if there have been unusual changes in activity or referrals Revised provisions and requirements in relation to reporting and information

- New Emergency Preparedness and Resilience provisions, to reflect changes to national processes and new guidance
- Service Development and Improvement Plan now non-mandatory
- The addition of requirements relating Prevent
- Simplification of the payments clause
- Simplification of the CQUIN process and reflection of 2013/14 guidance
- New formulae for calculation of sanctions in relation to Clostridium difficile
- Changes to the Dispute Resolution Procedure to include new processes for disputes between Commissioners and NHS Trusts and the introduction of expert determination
- Additional provisions defining the obligations of the parties in expectation of TUPE applying on transfers of services
- Addition of requirements relating to Duty of Candour, the Friends and Family Test and publication of Formulary
- Revision of the quality requirements to reflect '*Everyone Counts: Planning for Patients 2013/14*'

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