

28 March 2014

National Support Centre
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To:

Area Team Heads of Primary Care

Cc:

Area Team Directors
Area Team Directors of Commissioning
Area Team Directors of Finance

Regional Directors
Regional Directors of Commissioning

Dear Colleagues,

Implementing the 2014/15 GP contract

This letter is to signpost the support and guidance available to area teams to implement the 2014/15 GP contract changes and applies to all GMS, PMS and APMS contracts.

The outcome of contract negotiations on changes to the GMS contract was confirmed and set out in the [November letter](#) from Rosamond Roughton, National Director, Commissioning Development.

These arguably represent the most significant set of changes to be made to the GMS contract since its introduction in 2004 with a key focus on supporting more proactive and accountable care for people with more complex health needs and empowering patients.

This letter also reaffirmed NHS England's commitment to ensuring a consistent and equitable approach to implementing the changes in PMS and APMS contracts.

NHS England has worked in partnership with NHS Employers, the Department of Health, GPC and other stakeholders to bring together the necessary supporting documents (implementation guidance, amendment regulations and directions, and new standard contracts and variations), that will underpin and help area teams and GP practices deliver these changes. A directory of the supporting documents and links to these is provided in the Annex.

We anticipate that the Directions amending the GMS Statement of Financial

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Entitlements will be issued on Monday 31 March. Once the new GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements is published, it is essential that area teams apply these changes – and agree corresponding changes to PMS and APMS contracts – at the earliest possible opportunity, applying the changes with backdated effect from 1 April 2014, including any agreed enhanced services..

In most instances the preferred approach will be to issue (as variations to existing contracts) the new NHS England standard model primary medical care contracts that will be available early in April. These have the advantage of bringing a consistent national approach to primary care contracting and provide an opportunity to ensure all contracts are up to date in meeting the required legal terms and to ensure that they set out contractors' details accurately. Model contract variation notices will also remain available to update existing contracts with legislative changes. Agreed enhanced services will require either contract variation or can be accommodated under a standalone APMS contract.

There are further changes to follow later in the year, specifically the introduction of the new model of patient choice of GP practice from October 2014 and the Friends and Family Test (FFT) from December 2014. Implementation guidance will be issued on these by the end of August 2014.

The assurance framework for primary medical service contractors is being updated to incorporate the new contractual requirements, including a revised annual practice self-declaration.

Implementation support for primary medical care contracting is available from the national support centre using the email England.primarycareops@nhs.net.

Area teams can also contact Capsticks directly if they have any queries on the legal aspects of the local contracting process, the new standard contract documentation available and assistance with its implementation and use. Email PMCHelpdesk@capsticks.com or telephone the Capsticks dedicated helpline on **020 8780 4796**.

Implementation of the GP contract changes will continue to be a rolling item for discussion at the routine Area Team Heads of Primary Care meeting, providing an opportunity to review progress, risks and issues arising.

Yours sincerely,



BEN DYSON
Director of Commissioning Policy
& Primary Care



DR DAVID GEDDES
Head of Primary Care Commissioning
& Primary Care

ANNEX

Implementing the 2014/15 GP contract: Support documentation

Implementation guidance

1. Dedicated implementation guidance is available for NHS England area teams and GMS practices on the 2014/15 GP contract changes. This has been produced by NHS Employers and agreed with NHS England and the BMA General Practitioners Committee (GPC).
2. This guidance supports implementation of all the 2014/15 GMS contract changes agreed in October 2013 (except for extending choice of GP practice and the Friends and Family Test which will follow later in the year).

This guidance will also be of relevance to PMS and APMS practices as it supports implementation of the new contractual requirements that will apply across all GP practices from 1 April 2014 and of the enhanced services that NHS England will offer nationally. This guidance will be available here <http://www.nhsemployers.org/GMS2014-15> by 2 April 2014.

3. Guidance has already been published on the full requirements of the Quality and Outcomes Framework in 2014/15 here www.nhsemployers.org/qof.
4. NHS England and GPC have agreed a number of additional changes to support vaccinations and immunisation services in 2014/15. Implementation guidance to support these changes will be published in early April and will be available here <http://www.nhsemployers.org/GMS2014-15>.

Funding changes to PMS and APMS contracts

5. NHS England is committed to applying the changes agreed to GMS contracts in 2014/15 equitably and consistently in all PMS and APMS practices providing core general practice services. The arrangements that NHS England area teams will apply are available [here](#). These arrangements are without prejudice to any potential changes to the premium element of PMS or APMS funding as a result of local reviews and renegotiations.

Legislation

6. **Amending GMS and PMS contract regulations** which give effect to those aspects of the 2014/15 contract agreement that are core contractual requirements for all GP practices have been laid before parliament and will come into force on 1 April 2014. The regulations are available here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/465/contents/made>

There will be further amending regulations later in the year to introduce

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the Friends and Family Test into general practice.

7. **Amending APMS Directions** have also been published to ensure the appropriate changes are mirrored in APMS contracts when delivering core general practice services. The APMS directions will be available [here](#) by 2 April and prior to publication on the gov.uk website.
8. **Amending Statement of Financial Entitlement (SFE) Directions** set out the revisions to payments to practices under the GMS contract for 2014/15 in line with the national agreement and apply – through an increase in the global sum value – the 0.28 per cent uplift recommended by the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body. The revised SFE will be available [here](#) by 2 April and prior to publication on the gov.uk website.
9. **Directed Enhanced Services (DES) Directions 2014** set out some of the enhanced services that NHS England will commission nationally in 2014/15 from GP practices.

Some enhanced services will be based on the national specification set out in the DES with payments to be made pursuant to (or with regard to) the SFE¹, whilst others will be defined locally against the national minimum DES requirements in view of local population needs or provider skills and experience².

NHS England has agreed to commission some further enhanced services under a separate priced national specification³. NHS England is committed to ensuring APMS practices providing core general practice services also have the opportunity to provide these services.

The DES Directions are available [here](#) prior to publication on the gov.uk website.

The DES Directions do not cover all the national enhanced services that NHS England area teams will commission in 2014/15. The agreement with GPC also covers a number of national enhanced services⁴ for immunisation services that NHS England commissions as part of the Public Health Section 7 Agreement under the National Health Service Act 2006.

All the national enhanced service specifications that NHS England area teams will use will be published at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/resources/d-com/gp-contract/>.

Standard contract documentation

¹ Extended Hours Access, Alcohol Related Risk Reduction, Learning Disabilities Health Checks, Childhood Immunisation (Target Payments), Patient Participation.

² Violent Patients, Minor Surgery.

³ Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisation, Timely diagnosis and support for people with dementia, Avoiding Unplanned Admissions and Proactive Case Management Scheme.

⁴ Shingles Catch-up Vaccination, Pertussis (Pregnant Women) Vaccination, Childhood Seasonal Influenza, MenC Vaccination for university freshers.

10. A suite of new standard primary medical care contract documentation is being prepared for NHS England by Capsticks to enable the contract changes in local GP contracts.
11. Area teams will need to obtain practices' agreement using this standard contract documentation⁵ to implement the GP contract changes at the earliest possible opportunity, backdated to 1 April 2014 so that contracts reflect the requirements of the revised legislation referenced above and any additional variations required (e.g. enhanced services).
12. The following standard contract documentation will be available as soon as possible after 1 April (once the underpinning regulations and directions have been finalised)
 - a. **GMS model contract with April 2014 variation.** To be issued as a variation to local GMS contracts. Area teams will generally update GMS contracts to this new NHS England model contract.
 - b. **GMS model contract variation notice April 2014.** This can be used to update a GMS contract without applying the new model contract.
 - c. **PMS model contract with April 2014 variation.** To be issued as a variation to existing contracts to apply the new model PMS contract.
 - d. **PMS model contract variation notice April 2014.** This generic variation will ensure the new minimum legal terms apply without applying the new model contract and will be useful where there is not already a term in the local PMS contract to ensure the local contract is updated to meet minimum statutory requirements.
 - e. **APMS model contract variation notice April 2014.** This generic variation will ensure the new minimum legal terms apply and will be required where there is not already a term to ensure the local contract is updated to meet minimum statutory requirements. An NHS England model APMS contract will follow.
13. All standard contract documentation will be published on the NHS England website [here](#).

⁵ Where the DH standard GMS contract documentation has not previously been used area teams will need to review the changes they will need to make to local contracts.