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11 August 2014

To the CCG Clinical Lead

Copy: CCG Accountable Officers
Regional Directors
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MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OOH PRIMARY MEDICAL SERVICES WHERE PRACTICES HAVE NOT 'OPTED OUT'

NHS England issued [guidance to CCGs on the primary medical care functions delegated to them](#) in March 2014. The guidance set out responsibilities associated with commissioning of out of hours services.

I am writing to clarify arrangements for assuring the quality of services provided by GP practices that did not opt out of contractual responsibility for out of hours services.

It is important to note that all out of hours providers, including those GP practices that have retained responsibility for out of hours services under the GP contract (i.e. did not opt out of responsibility for OOH services under the 2004 contract), are required to meet the National Quality Requirements:
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4137271

The NHS England [Single Operating Model for primary care](#) indicated that CCGs should assure quality for all out of hours primary medical services, including those for which GP practices remain contractually responsible. The guidance to CCGs ([on page 5](#)) issued in March 2014 did not make this entirely clear so, for the avoidance of doubt, we would like to clarify that CCGs should, as part of their delegated responsibilities, assure the quality of all OOH providers.

A significant number of CCGs are already fulfilling this role through your overall assurance of OOH services.

Publications Gateway Ref No: 02088

Assurance of out of hours arrangements for both opted out and opted in providers will feature as an aspect of CCG assurance meetings with NHS England in the coming months.

Please do contact a colleague in your [area](#) primary care team if you have any questions about your CCG's role in this regard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Jaines', with a horizontal line underneath.

Deborah Jaines

Head of Primary Care Policy
Commissioning Operations Directorate
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