

April 2017

Dear Colleagues,

### **Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee– Membership Recruitment**

As set out in the *Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View*, action is required to ensure we are maximizing the optimal value we secure from the NHS spend on medicines. The NHS spends around £16 billion a year on drugs. The NHS drugs bill grew by over 7% last year and is forecasted to continue growing over the coming years. We must work together for the benefit of individual patients and the outcomes we achieve for our population and value for the taxpayer.

Working in partnership with NHS Clinical Commissioners, NHS England has responded to requests for better coordination, collaboration and alignment across health economies and nationally, by joining up vital medicines optimisation activity through the establishment of four Regional Medicines Optimisation Committees (RMOCs) - which will operate together as part of a single system across England.

The concept, role and intended function of RMOCs has been co-developed between NHS England and NHS Clinical Commissioners on behalf of Clinical Commissioning Groups, in partnership with NHS hospital representatives, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), NHS Improvement and representative bodies of the branded and generic pharmaceutical industry. It has been built upon extensive consultation and engagement with 400 stakeholders including NHS commissioners and NHS providers.

The RMOCs will provide advice and make recommendations on the optimal use of medicines for the benefit of patients and the NHS. They will bring together decision makers and clinicians across the four regions of England, to share best practice, understand the evidence base, coordinate action and so reduce variation and improve outcomes and value.

As Chairs of the RMOCs, we are pleased to announce the RMOC Operating Model has been published on NHS England's website and the recruitment process for RMOC members is now underway. Supporting information for applicants and the operating model can be found at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/regional-medicines-optimisation-committee-operating-guidance-and-recruitment-information/>

There is a two week period for applications to be submitted which means a closing date of **5 May at 5pm**. All application forms and supporting information should be submitted to [England.RMOC1@nhs.net](mailto:England.RMOC1@nhs.net)

We can confirm inaugural meetings for all four RMOCs will take place later this month. These will be proxy meetings in the absence of full committee membership and will be conducted via WebEx on the following dates:

**RMOC North – 26 April – 13.00 14.00**

The Web-Ex will focus on providing a high level overview of the operating model and to seek views on the emerging potential opportunities for RMOCs, alongside resources to support implementation. If you would like to register for the Web-Ex please email your expression of interest to Gill Morphet ([Gillian.Morphet@nhs.net](mailto:Gillian.Morphet@nhs.net)) at your earliest convenience.

Over the course of the next financial year, the RMOCs will establish themselves and begin taking on the functions described in its operating model.

We look forward to working with you on this important programme of work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Prentice". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Dr Mike Prentice  
Regional Medical Director (North) and Chair of Regional Medicines Optimisation  
Committee (North)**