



Draft NHS Standard Contract 2019/20

**Introduction to proposals on Aggregate
Contract Monitoring Reports and
supporting dataflows**

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Promoting equality and addressing health inequalities are at the heart of NHS England's values. Throughout the development of the policies and processes cited in this document, we have:

- given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic (as cited under the Equality Act 2010) and those who do not share it; and
- given regard to the need to reduce inequalities between patients in access to, and outcomes from healthcare services and to ensure services are provided in an integrated way where this might reduce health inequalities.

NHS England INFORMATION READER BOX**Directorate**

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Target Audience	CCG Accountable Officers, CSU Managing Directors, Care Trust CEs, Foundation Trust CEs, Local Authority CEs, NHS Trust Board Chairs, NHS England Regional Directors, NHS Trust CEs, Commissioners and providers who are party to an NHS Standard Contract
Additional Circulation List	
Description	NHS England carried out an engagement process in December 2017 to consider a more standardised approach to the provision of contract monitoring reports and supporting data. The proposals are now ready to be implemented, subject to the final consultation described in this paper.
Cross Reference	NHS Standard Contract https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/
Superseded Docs (if applicable)	NA
Action Required	Respond to consultation to england.contractsengagement@nhs.net
Timing / Deadlines (if applicable)	Respond to consultation by 1 February 2019
Contact Details for further information	NHS Standard Contract team 4E64 Quarry House Quarry Hill Leeds LS2 7UE england.contractsengagement@nhs.net https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/

Document Status

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1 Introduction

NHS England carried out an [engagement process](#) in December 2017 to examine the scope for, and potential benefits of, a more standardised approach to the provision of contract monitoring reports and supporting data.

Since then, further work has been done by NHS England and NHS Digital to respond to the feedback from the engagement process, and detailed proposals are now ready to be implemented, subject to the final consultation described in this paper and the supporting documents.

2 Outline of proposals

Our proposal is, through a change to the wording of Schedule 6A of the NHS Standard Contract and through publication by NHS Digital of new Information Standards, to mandate

- a standardised format for the Aggregate Contract Monitoring (ACM) report (referred to in the Contract as the Activity and Finance Report)
- to require the submission, again in a standard format, of supporting datasets for patient activity, excluded drugs and excluded devices.

We anticipate that these new requirements will come into effect either at the start of, or during, 2019/20. The precise timing will be confirmed following consultation, if the decision is taken to proceed.

3 Rationale

The fundamental rationale for our proposal is to reduce, over time, the additional administrative burden on providers and commissioners which is caused by the current system under which contract monitoring reports and local datasets are submitted in multiple different formats.

Our understanding is that the reports and data we are referring to are already flowing from providers to commissioners – so our intention is not to create additional requirements, but to standardise the format used across the whole system. We recognise that this will involve some additional short-term effort to manage the transition to a new approach – but, once the new approach is established, the ongoing burden on both providers and commissioners should be reduced.

NHS England already requires submission of ACM reports and supporting datasets in the format proposed for its directly-commissioned services, so many providers will already be familiar with what is required.

4 Supporting information

Six separate documents provide the detailed information to support these proposals. They are all available at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/19-20/>. They are:

- a summary of feedback received to the original December 2017 engagement process and actions taken in response (Four Core Commissioning Data Flows: Consultation Report)
- a draft requirements specification for the proposed standardised ACM report (DCB2050: Aggregate Contract Monitoring (ACM): Requirements Specification);
- a draft requirement specification for the proposed patient-level activity dataset (DCB3003: Patient Level Contract Monitoring (PLCM): Requirements Specification)
- a draft requirement specification for the proposed excluded drugs dataset (DCB2212: Drugs Patient Level Contract Monitoring (DrPLCM): Requirements Specification);
- a draft requirement specification for the proposed excluded devices dataset (DCB3002: Devices Patient Level Contract Monitoring (DePLCM): Requirements Specification); and
- a model example of the proposed ACM report.

5 Questions on which we would welcome feedback

We welcome feedback on any aspect of these proposals, but we particularly wish to understand stakeholders' views on the following key questions.

- Do you support our proposal to standardise the format for Aggregate Contract Monitoring reports and supporting datasets?
- Do you agree that our proposals will help to reduce, over time, the administrative burden on providers and commissioners?
- Do you agree with the mandatory coverage we are proposing for the new arrangements?
- From what date do you think it is realistic to mandate compliance with the new arrangements?

6 Responding to the consultation

Responses should be sent to england.contractsengagement@nhs.net by **Friday 1 February 2019**. We expect to publish the final version of the Contracts by 22 February 2019.

This information can be made available in alternative formats, such as easy read or large print, and may be available in alternative languages, upon request. Please contact 0300 311 22 33 or email england.contactus@nhs.net stating that this document is owned by NHS Standard Contract Team, Commissioning Strategy Directorate.