

To: Directors of Commissioning
Regional Heads of Primary Care
Heads of Primary Care
CCG Clinical Leads and Accountable Officers

Cc: Regional Finance Directors

Gateway No 000384

Strategy and Innovation Directorate
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Dear colleagues

GMS CONTRACT SETTLEMENT AND ALLOCATION CHANGES 2019/20 TO 2023/24

Following previous correspondence on 7th March, I am writing with details of the changes that are needed to allocations resulting from the GP contract settlement, as agreed with NHS England Finance Directorate.

Background

As the 7th March letter mentioned, the allocations paper¹ to the Board on 31st January and subsequent guidance² made clear, those allocations may have required adjustments to take account of the GP contract agreement³ which was also announced on the same day, 31st January.

Having reviewed the position thoroughly, consequential adjustments will now be made to CCG allocations 2019/20 to 2023/24 (primary care medical)⁴ which are the net effect of funding changes to the GP contract, due to the introduction of the new centrally-funded Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP) which will start from April 2019.

The scheme is funded through a one-off permanent adjustment to core practice funding. Future costs of CNSGP will be funded centrally, not met by individual practices. As a result, allocations are now being adjusted commensurately.

The table below shows the national effect of the adjustments, and the attached spreadsheet shows how the allocations have been adjusted for each CCG area.

¹ Paragraph 16 of the [Allocations Board Paper](#)

² Annex B of the [CCG Allocations Guidance](#)

³ Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/gp-contract-five-year-framework/>

⁴ Available at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/ccg-allocations-2019-20-to-2023-24-primary-care-medical/>

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£ millions	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Allocations ⁴ published 31 January 2019	8,270	8,635	9,098	9,468	9,852
Adjustment	- 238	- 248	- 331	- 278	- 180
Revised allocations	8,032	8,387	8,767	9,191	9,673

Planning returns

These revised allocations should be used in planning returns due on Friday 4th April.

Future adjustment: Improving Access to General Practice.

As mentioned in the 7th March letter, we are currently working through the changes needed to deliver the announced funding of £6 per head into CCG allocations (primary medical care) for Improving Access to General Practice.

These changes are more complex as they involve adjustments to:

- a) CCG allocations 2019/20 to 2023/24 (primary care medical);
- b) For some CCGs, their CCG allocations 2019/20 to 2023/24 (core services) as £105 million of Improving Access to General Practice funding was previously transferred to them;
- c) NHS England 2019/20 to 2023/24 Central Allocations, where over £200 million a year will move from Central Allocations to CCG allocations (primary care medical).

In addition, the Access Review⁵ is due to commence in April 2019 and report in good time for recommendations to be implemented from 2021/22.

For this reason, we are proposing effecting the transfer of Improving Access funding from Central Allocations for 2019/20 and 2020/21 only. The intention is that transfers for the following three years would follow once the Access Review had reported and any recommendations had been implemented.

A further letter on the 2019/20 and 2020/21 adjustments will follow from mid-April.

However, this should not prevent CCGs from developing and submitting plans to the 4th April deadline, given £6 per weighted patient of funding will be made available in 2019/20 and 2020/21 as previously announced.

Previous guidance

To recap on previous guidance on the GP contract changes for 2019/20 and beyond, these are on the NHS England website, and include the:

- a) 31st January 2019 letter: This announced the publication of *Investment and evolution: A five-year framework for GP contract reform to implement The NHS Long Term Plan* jointly with the BMA's General Practitioners Committee England.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/gp-contract-reform-letter-from-ed-waller/>

- b) 19th February 2019 letter: Set out further details, including the 2019/20 values of the Global Sum price per weighted patient and Quality & Outcome Framework point.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/EW-Letter--GMS-Contracts.pdf>

⁵ Further details on Access Review at paragraphs 5.23 onwards: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/gp-contract-2019.pdf>

- c) 7th March 2019 letter: Provided more information, including on the payments to cover indemnity inflation, NHS Pension Scheme employer superannuation changes.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/gp-contract-reform-letter-07-03-19.pdf>

GP contract guidance

As many of you are aware from previous correspondence, we are running a series of roadshows to help colleagues understand the GP contract changes in full and on which further communications and guidance will follow.

In the meantime, if you have any queries they can be submitted to:

England.GPcontracts@nhs.net

Thank you for the questions received so far. We will look to address as many of these as possible in future guidance, prioritising areas of common concern.



Ed Waller
Director of Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts