FAQ

1) Please could you confirm the definition of when the standard has been met, by absolute number or % change?

Also, for the purposes of the CCG’s compliance statement does the expenditure figure from the 2018/19 planning template (final submission) have to be used as the basis for their 2017/18 expenditure regardless of any errors we identify in this submission during our testing, or should the compliance statement be based on the revised 17/18 figures after correction of the errors identified? For example, if the prescribing figures included in the 2018/19 planning template were not calculated correctly in line with the NHSE guidance should the compliance statement be based on the old (incorrect) or new (revised) figures?

Answer

The planning guidance for 2018/19 stated that “each CCG must meet the Mental Health Investment Standard (MHIS) by which their 2018/19 investment in mental health rises at a faster rate than their overall published programme funding.” It is the % change therefore that should be used.

The reporting accountants are being asked to express a view on the accuracy of the compliance statement, not the underlying numbers, though the reporting accountants will clearly need to test the underlying numbers in performing their work.

The reporting accountants should therefore take account of all errors they have identified in making their assessment, relating to either or both of 2017/18 or 2018/19 expenditure. If an error of approximately equal size has been made to both years, this may not impact the CCG’s compliance with the MHIS.

2) The allocation file linked to the briefing note gives increases to allocations to 2dp. The CCG non ISFE templates record the increases to 1dp. Which increases should be used?

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Answer

The allocation increases included within the non ISFE templates are the ones that should be used as these are the templates that have been used by the CCGs to measure compliance. The difference should only be roundings.

3) Is it possible to have an extension to the 30th September publication deadline?

Answer

We are aware that engagement of a reporting accountant has been difficult for some CCGs, and, in some cases, the reviews have taken a longer time than was originally anticipated. CCGs should therefore now aim to publish their compliance statement and reporting accountant’s report by 31st October 2019.