

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

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
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Dear Colleagues,

PRIMARY CARE NETWORKS ADDITIONAL ROLES REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME: UPDATE TO COMMISSIONERS

The recently published [update to the GP contract agreement 2020/21-2023/24](#) sets out a range of significant enhancements across the contract which will be introduced from April 2020. The update includes a number of changes to the Network Contract DES Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme.

As set out in the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme guidance 2019/20, from April 2020 each PCN will be allocated an Additional Roles Reimbursement Sum, which will be based upon the PCN's weighted population share. PCNs will be able to recruit from within the reimbursable roles as they require to support delivery of the Network Contract DES, with a maximum reimbursable amount for each role as set out in Table 1 of the [GP contract update](#).

In line with the published contract update, to introduce further flexibility into the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme, a further six roles are being added to the Scheme from April 2020, in addition to those already committed to in *Investment and Evolution*. These new roles include pharmacy technicians, care co-ordinators, health and wellbeing coaches, dietitians, podiatrists and occupational therapists. Reimbursement under the Scheme from 1 April 2020 is increasing to 100% of actual salary and employer 'on-costs' for all of the ten roles.

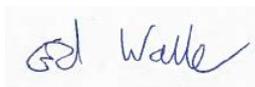
Reimbursement arrangements under the Network Contract DES for the remainder of 2019/20 will not change until 1 April 2020. We encourage CCGs and PCNs to take steps now to ensure they are in position to employ additional staff as soon as possible in 2020/21.



In addition, for 2019/20, we are aware that some commissioners are forecasting an underspend on their Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme funding (as a result of PCNs failing to draw down their full entitlement), even after having considered use of a local scheme to share unused financial entitlements across the PCNs in the area. NHS England expects commissioners to deliver year-end outturn expenditure in line with their M9 forecast position. However, subject to this provision, where underspend is likely in respect of the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme, NHS England encourages commissioners to use this unspent entitlement to enable PCNs to recruit now to any of the ten roles which will be included in the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme from 1 April 2020. Whilst we would not recommend using this flexibility to increase the rate of reimbursement for existing staff, commissioners are encouraged to reimburse any new appointments from 17 February at 100% of salary and employer 'on-costs', up to the maximum reimbursable amounts for each role, as set out in Table 1 of the [GP contract update](#), with a view to these workforce roles then becoming eligible for reimbursement under the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme from 1 April 2020 without any change to their terms and conditions. Commissioners may also use this unspent funding to support PCN recruitment exercises. CCG with concerns about their ability to implement this in 2019/20 without impacting on their forecast outturn position should discuss this with their regional team.

We hope this flexibility provides the impetus for PCNs to move forward swiftly to recruit additional staff, supporting them to use their funding entitlement for 2020/21 and delivering the associated benefits for general practice sustainability and services for patients.

I will write further as soon as possible to provide details of supplementary allocations to reflect the new GP contract arrangements.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Waller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small circular mark at the beginning.

Ed Waller
Director
Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts Group