

PURCHASING SYSTEM FOR GENERAL PRACTICE SERVICES INFORMATION FACTSHEET FOR GP PROVIDERS

This factsheet is for all General Practice (GP) providers who have ever considered and may be interested in providing GP services under Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contracts, including caretaker arrangements.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) has launched a new online purchasing system (technically known as a 'Pseudo' Dynamic Purchasing System or PDPS) where pre-approved GP providers will be listed and invited to bid to provide APMS services when local needs arise. **This system was published in January 2020 and is open to providers wishing to apply to join.**

This factsheet provides more information about this new procurement system and how you can find out more, including how and where to apply.

What APMS services are in scope?

There are two main "lots" to the APMS services in scope:

Lot 1. Routine GP services. This lot will be used to support local commissioners deliver on their procurement plans for replacing existing or securing additional GP services and covers the core list-based services expected from all GP practices in England.

The emphasis here is on meeting planned needs that are typically subject to full commissioning and procurement processes. APMS contracts will reflect the bespoke needs of each local commissioner.

Lot 2. Caretaker Services. These are the urgent cover arrangements, approved by primary care joint and commissioning committees, on a case by case basis, to ensure a safe and sustainable GP service continues for patients when a GP contract terminates suddenly or unexpectedly.

It is the case that the need for a caretaker to be secured is either urgent, from a matter of a few days to up to three/six months, where more notice is provided by the GP contractor. The cover arrangements usually last no longer than a year to allow longer term plans for meeting the ongoing general practice needs of patients to be developed, considered and implemented.

The new purchasing system

This new system is being set up under the Light Touch Regime for Health Care contracts within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the initial set up is being managed by North and East London Commissioning Support Unit (NELCSU). NELCSU is leading the system set up on behalf of the CSU collaborative, which provides procurement services for commissioners, including primary care on behalf of NHSEI.

The new system is a 4-year procurement exercise being managed through an e-procurement platform and will see:

- GP providers appointed to an electronically managed list of pre-approved providers – providers can apply to join the list at any time, unlike a traditional procurement framework, as there will be a series of regular application rounds held during the 4-year period. The pre-approval is largely concerned with eligibility to hold an APMS contract.

- Approved GP providers will be invited via the e-platform to respond to requests for APMS services from local commissioners. This local “call off” will be matched to the bespoke needs of local commissioners and is where providers will set out their plans to deliver the services in question.

To ensure the system can be managed efficiently while also being sensitive to local commissioner (and provider) needs it is being broken down in to geographical lots

Our regional footprints

North East and Yorkshire

- Cumbria and the North East
- West Yorkshire and Harrogate
- Humber, Coast and Vale
- South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw

North West

- Lancashire and South Cumbria
- Greater Manchester
- Cheshire and Merseyside

East of England

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Norfolk and Waveney
- Suffolk and North East Essex
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes
- Hertfordshire and West Essex
- Mid and South Essex

London

- North West London
- Central London
- East London
- South East London
- South West London

Midlands

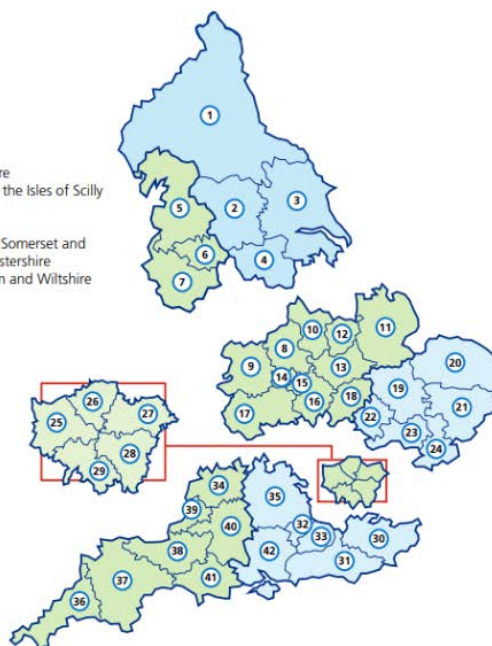
- Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent
- Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin
- Derbyshire
- Lincolnshire
- Nottinghamshire
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
- The Black Country
- Birmingham and Solihull
- Coventry and Warwickshire
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire
- Northamptonshire

South East

- Kent and Medway
- Sussex and East Surrey
- Frimley Health and Care
- Surrey Heartlands
- Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight

South West

- Gloucestershire
- Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
- Devon
- Somerset
- Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
- Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire
- Dorset



GP Providers will apply to be an approved APMS and/or caretaker provider in one (or more) of NHSEI’s seven operating regions. Applicants will also be asked to indicate (for information) which local areas within those operating regions they will be interested in providing services. These local area “sub-lots” mirror the System and Transformation Partnership (STP) areas and constituent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) covering the whole of England.

While delegated CCGs are not mandated to use the system there are a number of benefits for them if they do. NHSEI and NELCSU are therefore working to ensure CCGs recognise these benefits and to encourage all CCGs to engage locally with GP providers on their intent to use the system. It is recognised from a local commissioner perspective planned use may be conditional on sufficient provider interest in joining. CCGs could equally signal at the launch of a procurement plans to run that procurement through the system.

Why should I apply?

NHSEI is encouraging all GP providers with an interest in providing routine and/or caretaker APMS services to apply to join as a pre-approved provider.

Application on to the approved provider list **does not commit** you to providing APMS services but does mean you will be able to bid when local needs arise. You just need to apply once.

This interest could simply be in providing a one-off caretaker service, for example, in the case of a neighbouring or Primary Care Network member practice falling in to difficulty. This interest could also be from larger GP contract holders and other Healthcare providers, for example, those able to offer a service across wider geographical area whether in another Primary Care Network, STP, Region or even nationally.

NHSEI will be asking all CCGs to share details of their substantive APMS contracts/procurement pipelines with NELCSU so that there is transparency for prospective providers on possible future opportunities, generating interest in applying to join the system that will mitigate commissioners concerns on using the system. This information will be made available via the e-platform when available.

What do I need to demonstrate to qualify as an approved provider?

Providers that meet the relevant eligibility criteria will be admitted onto the system. Minimum threshold on suitability and capability will need to be met and key pass/fail questions will be asked of providers in the following areas:

- Financial and economic standing
- Technical and professional ability
- Mandatory and discretionary exclusion questions
- Other subject matter questions.

The PDPS Application questionnaire and further guidance (including FAQs) is available via the e-platform EU-Supply, see link below.

When contract opportunities arise, local commissioners will invite approved GP providers to bid on the local requirements only.

How do I apply?

The PDPS contract notice was published on 20 January 2020 opening up the system and inviting providers to apply.

To apply you need to register on the online portal, and submit an application to join the PDPS before one of the Application Round deadlines. Instructions are shown in the Contracts Finder advert, link: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/6f4aae1b-7289-4b78-88eb-f5d36757f21c>

What is the timetable for the rounds?

The table below is the timetable for the 2020 application rounds, it may be necessary during the life of this project to move these dates slightly, any changes will be with appropriate notice via the EU Supply portal, please ensure that you regularly check this portal for updates.

Round	Application Period	Clarification period	Deadline for submission/ Evidence Provision by	Maximum Evaluation Period	Decision Letters	MOU in place
Round 1	21.01.2020 – 14.02.2020	21.01.2020 – 03.02.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	14.02.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	17.02.2020 – 28.02.2020	06.03.2020	13.03.2020
Round 2	17.02.2020 – 13.03.2020	17.02.2020 – 02.03.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	13.03.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	16.03.2020 – 27.03.2020	03.04.2020	09.04.2020
Round 3	16.03.2020 – 09.04.2020	16.03.2020 – 30.04.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	09.04.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	14.04.2020 – 24.04.2020	01.05.2020	07.05.2020
Round 4	14.04.2020 – 07.05.2020	14.04.2020 – 27.04.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	07.05.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	11.05.2020 – 22.05.2020	29.05.2020	05.06.2020
Round 5	11.05.2020 – 05.06.2020	11.05.2020 – 26.05.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	05.06.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	08.06.2020 – 19.06.2020	26.06.2020	03.07.2020
Round 6	08.06.2020 – 03.07.2020	08.06.2020 – 23.06.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	03.07.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	06.07.2020 – 17.07.2020	24.07.2020	31.07.2020
Round 7	06.07.2020 – 31.07.2020	06.07.2020 – 21.07.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	31.07.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	03.08.2020 – 14.08.2020	21.08.2020	28.08.2020
Round 8	03.08.2020 – 28.08.2020	03.08.2020 – 18.08.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	28.08.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	01.09.2020 – 11.09.2020	18.09.2020	25.09.2020
Round 9	01.09.2020 – 25.09.2020	01.09.2020 – 15.09.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	25.09.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	28.09.2020 – 09.10.2020	16.10.2020	23.10.2020

Round	Application Period	Clarification period	Deadline for submission/ Evidence Provision by	Maximum Evaluation Period	Decision Letters	MOU in place
Round 10	28.09.2020 – 23.10.2020	28.09.2020 – 13.10.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	23.10.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	26.10.2020 – 06.11.2020	13.11.2020	20.11.2020
Round 11	26.10.2020 – 20.11.2020	26.10.2020 – 10.11.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	20.11.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	23.11.2020 – 04.12.2020	11.12.2020	18.12.2020
Round 12	23.11.2020 – 18.12.2020	23.11.2020 – 08.12.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	18.12.2020 at 12.00 (noon)	21.12.2020 – 08.01.2020	15.01.2020	22.01.2020

Where can I find out more?

Further documentation supporting this work including FAQs and contractual documentation underpinning the system is available on the online portal which can be accessed by following the links and instructions shown in the Contracts Finder advert, link: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/6f4aae1b-7289-4b78-88eb-f5d36757f21c>

Any specific queries may be addressed to nelcsu.APMS.PDPS@nhs.net or via the EU-Supply messaging facility once you have registered on the portal.

