

- To:
- GP practices
 - Primary Care Networks
 - CCGs:
 - clinical leads
 - accountable officers

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
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1 October 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Primary care networks: network contract directed enhanced service from October 2021

Explanatory note

1. This variation to the 2021/22 Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) Specification implements the plans for primary care networks (PCNs) described in our [letter of 23 August 2021](#).
2. The updated DES reconfirms the **gradual and phased introduction of new PCN service requirements over the next 18 months**. The introduction of two planned PCN services has been deferred until April 2022. The two services which commence from October 2021 (Cardiovascular Disease [CVD] Prevention and Diagnosis; Tackling Neighbourhood Health Inequalities) are introduced in a focused and preparatory form.
3. The updated DES also includes **uplifted Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) maximum reimbursement rates**, in line with the full 3% Agenda for Change pay increase. PCNs can claim these uplifted rates from October.
4. As we confirmed in our August letter, the DES also implements the introduction of **new PCN leadership and management funding** of £43m. It is up to clinical directors to recommend how the funding is best deployed across the PCN to create additional leadership and management capacity. We will be updating the ready reckoner so each PCN is able to look up the funding it is entitled to.
5. To support delivery of the PCN services, the updated DES includes the indicators associated with the **Investment and Impact Fund, which is expanded to £150m for 2021/22**.
6. Updated supporting guidance documents are available on our [website](#).

Participation

7. Practices already signed up in 2021/22 will automatically participate in the updated 2021/22 DES. This means that PCNs with no changes to their membership or information do not need to submit any sign-up information to their CCG to continue to participate. PCNs with changes must notify the commissioner by 31 October 2021 to seek approval of those changes.

8. If a practice wishes to sign up to, or opt out of, the DES, it must inform its clinical commissioning group (CCG) by 31 October 2021.

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