

Standard Alternative Provider Medical Services Contract Variation Notice



Standard Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) Contract Variation Notice

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Prepared by Hill Dickinson on behalf of NHS England

The text of the Standard Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) Contract Variation Notice August 2025 has been prepared by Hill Dickinson on behalf of NHS England.

It is prepared on the basis that the signed agreement to be varied is in the form of the NHS England Standard Alternative Provider Medical Services Contract and is up to date with all prior variation notices (up to and including the Alternative Provider Medical Services Variation Notice August 2024).

Equalities and health inequalities statement

"Promoting equality and addressing health inequalities are at the heart of NHS England's values. Throughout the development of the policies and processes cited in this document, we have:

- given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic (as cited under the Equality Act 2010) and those who do not share it;
- given regard to the need to reduce inequalities between patients in access to, and outcomes from, healthcare services and in securing that services are provided in an integrated way where this might reduce health inequalities."

Dear Sir/Madam

**Notice of Variation to your Standard Alternative Provider Medical Services
Contract dated []**

We give you notice under Clause 57.2 of your Alternative Provider Medical Services Contract dated [] that the terms of your Contract are varied as set out below.

These variations come into force as set out below with effect from *[insert here date on which variations will take effect. Where reasonably practicable this should not be less than 14 days after the date on which this notice is served. This is a regulatory requirement.]*.

These variations are made to comply with:

- The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts and Personal Medical Services Agreements) (Amendment) Regulations 2025; and
- The Alternative Provider Medical Services (Amendment) Directions 2025.

which came into force since the last update to the Alternative Provider Medical Services Contract.

For the avoidance of doubt nothing in this notice shall affect accrued rights or liabilities up to the date of the variation.

We request you to acknowledge receipt of this notice by signing and returning the enclosed duplicate of it.

Dated:

Signed:

on behalf of [INSERT ICB NAME]

Print name:

Wording of Variations

Part 3

1. **Replace** clause 3.2.1 with:

“3.2.1 The Contractor must take steps to ensure that all of the following means of contacting the Practice are available for Patients throughout Core Hours:

3.2.1.1 by attending the Contractor's Practice Premises;

3.2.1.2 by telephone; and

3.2.1.3 through the Practice's Online Consultation Tool within the meaning given in clause 32.20L.2.”.

2. Immediately after clause 3.2.1, **insert**:

“3.2.1A The Contractor must take steps to ensure that a Patient who contacts the Contractor through:

3.2.1A.1 any of the means listed in sub-clauses 3.2.1.1 to 3.2.1.3; or

3.2.1A.2 a relevant Electronic Communication Method within the meaning given in clause 32.20M.3.

is provided with an appropriate response in accordance with sub-clauses 3.2.2, 3.2.3 and 3.2.4.”.

3. In clause 3.2.3.1, **delete** the words “under sub-clause 3.2.1”.

Part 10

4. In clause 10.4.1, **replace** the words “direction 4 of the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (No.2) Directions 2021” with the words “the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) Directions”.

Part 31

5. At the beginning of clause 31.8, **insert** the words “Subject to sub-clause 31.8.3,”.

6. Immediately after clause 31.8, **insert**:

“31.8.1 The Commissioner may, following consultation with the Local Medical Committee (if any) for the area in which the Contractor provides services under the contract, determine that in certain circumstances the Commissioner’s approval is required before the Contractor accepts an application for inclusion in its List of Patients in respect of a Patient who resides outside the Contractor’s Practice Area.

31.8.2 Where the Commissioner has made a determination in accordance with sub-clause 31.8.1 it must set out the circumstances in which its approval is required in a notice to the Contractor.

31.8.3 Where the Commissioner has made a determination in accordance with sub-clause 31.8.1, a Contractor may only accept an application for inclusion in its List of Patients in respect of a person who resides outside the Contractor’s Practice Area in the circumstance set out in a notice given under sub-clause 31.8.2 with the Commissioner’s approval.”.

7. In clause 31.36A.2, after the words “primary medical services”, **insert** the words “in response to a request for removal under Clause 31.36”.

8. In clause 31.36B.1, **delete** the words “set up in accordance with direction 6 of the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (No.2) Directions 2021”.

9. Immediately after clause 31.37A, **insert**:

“31.37B In sub-Clause 31.36B, “Violent Patient Scheme” means a scheme set up in accordance with the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) Directions to provide primary medical services to those removed from a Contractor’s list of Patients under Clause 31.36.”.

10. In clause 31.49.1, **replace** the words “six (6)” with the words “three (3)”.

11. In clause 31.125, after the words “Patient Registration Area” **insert** the words “in accordance with sub-clauses 31.8 to 31.12”.

Part 32

12. Immediately after clause 32.11.2, **insert**:

“Enabling access to patient records through GP Connect

32.11A Where the Contractor which provides Essential Services holds a Patient’s record on its computerised clinical systems, the Contractor must ensure that its computerised clinical systems are configured to enable:

32.11A.1. GP Connect Access Record HTML and GP Connect Access Record Structured; and

32.11A.1.2 GP Connect Update Record.

32.11A.1 The Contractor must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the functionality referred to in clause 32.11A is operational at all times.

32.11A.2 In this clause:

“GP Connect” means the national service known as GP Connect provided by NHS England which facilitates interconnectivity between computerised clinical systems;

“GP Connect Access Record HTML” means the functionality within GP Connect that allows records to be viewed in Hypertext Markup

Language by other users of GP Connect for the purpose of direct care to a Patient;

“GP Connect Access Record Structured” means the functionality within GP Connect that allows records to be viewed in a structured and coded format that is machine readable by other users of GP Connect for the purpose of direct care to a Patient;

“GP Connect Update Record” means the functionality within GP Connect that allows consultation summaries to be sent electronically to the contractor by other users of GP Connect for integration into the Patient’s record; and

“Patient’s record” means computerised records kept in relation to a Patient in accordance with clause 32.2.2.”.

Part 33

13. Immediately after clause 33.5A.2, **insert:**

“and

- (c) the General Practice Patient Guidance published on the NHS England website.”.

Part 34

14. Immediately after clause 34H.1, **insert:**

“34I Recording and reviewing Patient safety events

34I.1 The Contractor must register for, and maintain an account with, the LFPSE Service that has administrator rights.

34I.2 In this clause, “LFPSE Service” refers to the centralised system provided by NHS England to record information

and provide data and analysis about events involving Patient safety.”.

Schedule 1

15. In paragraph 1.2 of Schedule 1, **insert** the following definition:

“Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) Directions”
means directions relating to provision of enhanced services given to NHS England under section 98A(3) of the 2006 Act;”.

I/We [] acknowledge receipt of the notice of variation dated [] of which the above is a duplicate. I/We acknowledge that this notice will take effect from [].

Signed:

[on behalf of]:

Print name:

Date: