



To: Directors of Commissioning
Regional Heads of Primary Care
CCG Clinical Leads and Accountable Officers
Gateway number - 001517

Strategy and Innovation
Directorate
NHS England and NHS
Improvement
Skipton House
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Dear colleagues,

Update to the GP contract agreement: 2020/21-2023/24

1. NHS England and NHS Improvement and the BMA have agreed today the 2020/21 GP contract deal. The full details of the deal can be found in “Update to the GP contract agreement 2020/21 to 2023/24” published at: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/investment/gp-contract/>. This agreement updates and enhances the existing five-year GP contract deal: *Investment and Evolution*¹.
2. The main measures are:
 - i. **Major enhancements to the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme to help secure 26,000 additional staff:**
 - 6,000 extra staff will be funded under the Scheme.
 - More roles will be added to the Scheme from April 2020 in addition to those previously agreed: pharmacy technicians, care co-ordinators, health coaches, dietitians, podiatrists and occupational therapists. Mental health professionals will be added from April 2021. Some further flexibility is included in the operation of the Scheme’s rules.
 - Reimbursement for the 26,000 roles increases from 70% to 100%.
 - PCNs are encouraged to take immediate action to recruit, with additional support from their CCG. A simple workforce planning template will be developed shortly, for PCNs to share their intentions.
 - CCGs and systems are expected to explore different ways of supporting PCNs to recruit additional staff.
 - ii. **A raft of measures to aid GP training recruitment and retention to help deliver 6,000 extra doctors working in primary care**

¹ NHS England and the BMA (2019) Investment and evolution: a five year framework for GP contract reform to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan. Available from: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/gp-contract-2019.pdf>

- iii. **A renewed focus on improving access** including a new GP Access Improvement Programme, which will initially seek to cut the longest waits for routine appointments. More people working in general practice will help achieve 50 million more appointments in general practice. An improved appointments dataset will be introduced in 2020, alongside a new, as close to real-time as possible, measure of patient experience. At least £30m of the £150m PCN Investment and Impact Fund in 2021/22 will support improved access for patients, rising to at least £100m of the £300m Fund in 2023/24.
- iv. **Further improvements to QOF including significant reforms to the asthma, COPD and heart failure QOF domains** and a new indicator on non-diabetic hyperglycaemia, worth 18 points. In 2020/21, the QOF quality improvement modules are learning disabilities and supporting early cancer diagnosis.
- v. **An overhaul of vaccination and immunisation payments to improve vaccination coverage.** Vaccinations and Immunisations will become an essential service in 2020 with new contractual core standards introduced. Item of service payments will be introduced and standardised across all routine programmes over the next two years. This will begin with Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) in 2020/21 and extend to other vaccines from April 2021. New incentive payments will be introduced to maximise population coverage as part of QOF, replacing the current Childhood Immunisation Directed Enhanced Service (DES).
- vi. **Maternity medical services will become an essential service, with a universal 6-8 week post-natal check introduced for new mothers,** backed by £12m of additional funding.
- vii. **The Structured Medication Review and Medicines Optimisation, Enhanced Health in Care Homes and Supporting Early Cancer Diagnosis service specifications have now been significantly improved in the light of consultation responses. They will be introduced in 2020/21.**
 - In recognition of the differential extra workload, a new care home premium payment worth £120 per bed per year will be introduced when the service goes live from 30 September 2020. Every care home will be supported by a single PCN with a named GP or GP team. By 31 July a delivery plan for the new service will be agreed with community provider partners.
 - Enhanced Health in Care Homes can only be delivered in close partnership with providers of community services. We consulted on changes to the NHS Standard Contract to support this integration in January, and plan to publish a finalised version of this contract in the coming weeks.

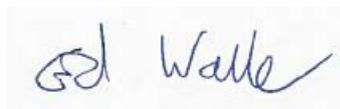
- The remaining four service specifications – CVD diagnosis and prevention, tackling inequalities, personalised care and anticipatory care - will be introduced in 2021/22, following negotiation with GPC England.
- From April 2020 every PCN will be offering a social prescribing service.
- Where the Network Contract DES delivers services that were previously funded through LIS/LES arrangements, the deal describes how funding must be reinvested by the CCG into primary medical care.

viii. Incentives under the new Investment and Impact Fund will be introduced in 2020/21. The Fund rewards PCNs for delivering objectives set out in the *NHS Long Term Plan* and GP contract agreement. It will operate in a similar way to QOF. Eight indicators are included in 2020/21, relating to seasonal flu vaccination, health checks for people with a learning disability, social prescribing referrals, and prescribing. The Fund will be worth £40.5m in 2020/21, increasing to £150m in 2021/22, £225m in 2022/23 and £300m in 2023/24.

ix. The deal also includes improvements to the Network Contract DES registration process and updates to the Network Agreement.

3. As last year, we are working with GPC to develop more detailed guidance, where appropriate, on the agreed changes set out in the publication. NHS England's dedicated GP contracts page will be updated with further details as soon as possible. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/gp/gpfp/investment/gp-contract/>
4. The changes to the value of the Quality & Outcome Framework (QOF) point, Global Sum price per weighted patient and Out of Hours adjustment for 2020/21 are set out in Annex A. These will be included in amendments to the Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions.
5. NHS England and NHS Improvement is committed to an equitable and consistent approach to funding the core services expected of all GP practices. As usual, further guidance will follow on the changes to be made to Personal Medical Services (PMS) and Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contracts for 2020/21.
6. We are planning a series of roadshows to help colleagues understand the changes in full and on which further communications will follow. In the meantime, if you have any queries they can be submitted to England.GPcontracts@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully



Director, Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts

Annex A: Changes to the value of the Quality & Outcome Framework (QOF) point, Global Sum price per weighted patient and Out of Hours adjustment for 2020/21

Figure	2019/20	2020/21	Increase	
			£	%
Value of QOF point	£187.74	£194.83	£7.09	3.8%
Global Sum price per weighted patient	£89.88	£93.46	£3.58	4.0%
Out of Hours adjustment (%)	4.82%	4.77%		
Out of Hours adjustment (£ amount)	£4.33	£4.46	£0.13	2.9%