

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

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
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31 March 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Primary care networks: network contract directed enhanced service from April 2022

Explanatory note

1. NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) has today published the revised Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) which takes effect from 1 April 2022. This implements the arrangements set out in the letter of 1 March 2022 for General Practice contract arrangements in 2022/23.
2. As the letter sets out, our priority for this year is to maintain stability and limit change for general practice, whilst bolstering investment for the workforce and leadership, supporting our communities to recover, and ensuring patients continue to receive timely, high quality care. The vast majority of the proposals are not new and build on the five-year contractual framework, *Investment and Evolution*, agreed with the BMA's General Practice Committee England (GPC England) in January 2019.
3. The amended DES introduces changes to the following areas, as set out in detail below.

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme

4. The amount available under the 2022/23 Network Contract DES for PCNs to recruit additional staff under the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) increases by £280 million to just over £1 billion. PCNs will continue to have flexibility to hire into any of 15 different roles.
5. From April 2022, where agreed between the PCN and the local Community Mental Health Provider, PCNs may be reimbursed for a further Mental Health Practitioner roles (or a further two for PCNs with a population of over 100k) to

support people with complex mental health needs, that can be employed on a 50:50 shared reimbursement model.

Leadership and Management

6. The PCN Clinical Director funding for 2022/23 has been agreed as £0.736 per head or £44 million nationally as part of the five-year deal. The updated 2022/23 DES includes by a further £43 million for a Leadership & Management payment. With the £1.50 per head core PCN funding, there is a total of £178 million available for PCNs and their Clinical Directors to support core running, leadership and management in 2022/23.

Enhanced Access

7. The updated 2022/23 DES reflects the agreement from the 2019 deal and subsequent contract updates to combine the two funding streams currently supporting extended access to fund a single, combined and nationally consistent access offer with updated requirements, to be delivered by PCNs. This brings together the current £1.44 per head Network Contract DES extended hours funding and the current £6 per head CCG-commissioned extended access services. The funding will be paid to PCNs on the basis of the PCN adjusted population, and PCNs may check their funding via the updated 2022/23 GP contract [ready reckoner](#) and [here](#).
8. The updated DES sets out the new Enhanced Access arrangements, which aim to remove variability across the country and improve patient understanding of the service. The new offer is based on PCNs providing bookable appointments outside core hours within the Enhanced Access period of 6.30pm-8pm weekday evenings and 9am-5pm on Saturdays, utilising the full multi-disciplinary team, and offering a range of general practice services, including 'routine' services such as screening, vaccinations and health checks, in line with patient preference and need. PCNs will be able to provide a proportion of Enhanced Access outside of these hours, for example early morning or on a Sunday, where this is in line with patient need locally and it is agreed with the commissioner.
9. PCNs will continue to deliver the current extended hours access arrangements from April 2022 until October 2022, at which point the new enhanced access service will begin. PCNs will need to undertake the preparatory requirements from April 2022, as set out in the updated 2022/23 DES specification.

PCN services

10. As set out in August 2021 in our plans for 2022/23, the updated 2022/23 DES includes a limited expansion of the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Diagnosis service.
11. The 2022/23 DES includes changes to the Early Cancer Diagnosis service requirements, which have been streamlined and refocussed in response to clinicians' feedback and to focus PCNs on national diagnosis priorities arising from evidence around lower than expected referral rates for prostate cancer.
12. The updated 2022/23 DES also sets out the requirements for the phased introduction of the Anticipatory Care and Personalised Care services. To note, there have been two amendments from the plans published in August 2021. For Anticipatory Care, PCNs now have until December 2022 to develop their anticipatory care plans, with the ICS led Anticipatory Care service starting in 2023/24. For Personalised Care, PCNs now have until 31 March 2024 to implement digitally enabled personalised care and support planning for care home residents.
13. The updated 2022/23 DES includes three new Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) indicators, which are focused on Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOAC) prescribing and FIT testing for cancer referrals. These changes will help to ensure that a greater number of patients with Atrial Fibrillation receive anticoagulation therapy where clinically appropriate and that more patients with suspected lower gastrointestinal cancer will have their two week wait referral accompanied by a FIT test result.
14. Funding for these indicators amounts to £34.6 million and is in addition to the existing £225 million funding envelope for the scheme.
15. Updated supporting guidance documents are available on [our website](#).

Participation

16. Practices already signed up in 2021/22 will automatically participate in the updated 2022/23 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 30 April 2022 to seek approval of those changes.

17. If a practice wishes to sign up to, or opt out of, the DES, it must inform its clinical commissioning group (CCG) by 30 April 2022. The CCG will work with the remaining practices in the PCN to consider the consequences, including whether the PCN remains viable. Similarly, if a practice wishes to opt into the DES, it must inform its CCG by 30 April 2022 in accordance with the process set out in the DES Specification and Guidance.

NHS England and NHS Improvement