



Consortium of Local Medical Committees

449-451 Garstang Road (Ambulance Service HQ)

Broughton, Preston, PR3 5LN

Tel: 01772 863806

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Temporary GP contract changes to support COVID-19 vaccination programme

The following sets out highlighted points of the actions for GPs, PCNs and teams to consider RE the vaccination programme alongside prioritisation of timely patient access to GP services this winter. The measures in this letter seek to support your professional clinical judgement in balancing these considerations. To see the full details of the letter from NHSEI please see [here](#).

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)

The following changes to QOF in 2021/2022 – applying to all practices, are being brought to your attention. This will be reflected in an amended SFE.

- Practices should focus on the four vaccination and immunisation indicators, the two cervical screening indicators, the register indicators and the eight prescribing indicators (see Appendix 1 in the full linked document above, page 6-10). These will continue to operate based on practice performance in 2021/22.
- The eight points associated with the new for 2021/22 cancer indicators, 20 points from the new for 2021/22 mental health indicators and 18 points from the non-diabetic hyperglycaemia indicator that was introduced for 2020/21 will be reallocated. These will increase the total points available for the eight prescribing indicators, reflecting the continued importance of effective prescribing in the management of long-term conditions.
- Practices are expected to continue to apply their clinical judgement and deliver as much patient care in these areas as they can, with a focus on the highest risk patients, but their income will not be dependent on recorded QOF achievement this year for the income-protected indicators.
- The quality improvement (QI) domain will be paid to practices in full.
- To be eligible for income protection, practices will need to agree with their commissioner a plan that will set out how QOF care will be delivered but with priority according to clinical risk and accounting for inequalities. GPC will be working with the RCGP and the BMA to provide some guidance to systems and practices.

Investment and Impact Fund (IIF)

The following changes will apply to IIF for 2021/2022, implemented via an upcoming variation to the network contract DES – key points being brought to your attention:

- The three flu immunisation indicators, and the appointment categorisation indicator (as the work is complete), will continue to operate based on PCN performance in 2021/2022 (See Appendix 3 in the full linked document above, page 11 -14)
- £62.4m of the funding allocated to these suspended indicators will instead be allocated to PCNs via a PCN support payment, to be paid on a weighted patient basis, subject to a simple confirmation from the PCN that it will be reinvested into services or workforce.
- £49.7m will be allocated to a new binary IIF indicator, paid on the basis of all practices within a PCN being signed up to phase 3 of the COVID-19 Vaccination Enhanced Service as of 31 December 2021, remaining signed up until 31 March 2022, and actively delivering the programme. Given the opt-in deadline of 10 December 2021, practices not signed up to the phase 3 Enhanced Service would need to opt in by 10 December 2021, be assured to go live in early January, and continue to participate in the enhanced service until 31 March 2022 to be eligible for this indicator. Payment for this indicator will be made on a registered list size basis after the end of the financial year. Where, in exceptional circumstances, the commissioner agrees with one or more practices that they should not participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Enhanced Service (as a result of wider access, performance or patient safety issues) then the PCN may still receive payment with those practices excluded from consideration. The payment will not apply if any practice in the PCN otherwise declines to participate in the programme.

Additional telephony support

- As a component of the NHSEI Winter Access programme, NHSX have agreed a time-limited offer with Microsoft for general practice to utilise MS Teams telephony functionality. This solution will enable staff to use MS teams to make outbound only calls independently of the existing telephone solutions. This will free up the existing lines for incoming calls. Practices will keep their current telephony supplier and associated number in place to support the receiving of calls. This national offer is an additional component to the Microsoft Teams application currently provided and will increase telephone capacity at no additional cost to the practice. The additional outbound only call functionality will expire on 30 April 2023.

As mentioned, the full details of the letter together with the appendices can be found [here](#).