

Dear colleague

PMS Review update – for GMS and PMS practices

The update below aims to answer questions being raised by both GMS and PMS practices about the progress of the PMS Review in Hounslow.

What is the PMS review and how does it affect GMS practices?

- NHS England's national PMS review's *stated* aim is to give equality of opportunity to all GP practices (PMS and GMS) to deliver services, beyond core, funded by redistributed PMS premium funding.
- PMS practices will be offered the new national core contract, this process started in February 2014 and was supposed to have completed by March 2016.
- The new PMS contract mirrors the GMS contract and does not include any additional elements to attract any additional funding.
- PMS practices are to be offered the opportunity to deliver services funded through reinvestment of their borough's PMS premium funds.
- **GMS practices will also be given this opportunity and hence have equal opportunity to access the borough PMS premium fund.**
- Transition arrangements are also still being discussed.

What led to the pause in the PMS review in London?

- As you are aware, Londonwide LMCs secured a pause to the PMS review in London because the original proposals would have disadvantaged all practices, both PMS and GMS.
- The pause was lifted in November 2016; it was agreed that the Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCGs) plans for the stabilisation and sustainability of general practice in their area would contain an element for the reinvestment of PMS premiums and that;
 - all withdrawn PMS premium funding must be reinvested in general practice in-year in order to stabilise practices and sustain general practice.
 - funding changes must not risk destabilising general practices locally, or general practice across the borough.
 - there would be a joint Londonwide LMCs/NHS England assurance process to ensure that all conditions, under which the pause was lifted, have been met.

What is the progress to date?

- Over the past few months, borough LMCs and Londonwide LMCs have been working on behalf of all practices to engage with CCGs to support the development of appropriate commissioning intentions for the reinvestment of the premium funding.
- A key principle is that outcome measures must be within the 'gift of the practice' to achieve and be achievable with the PMS premium funds made available.
- Hounslow CCG commissioning intentions for the reinvestment of the premium were submitted to NHS England. As part of the joint assurance process, NHSE and Londonwide LMCs looked at these in early September but they failed to meet the criteria required to be approved. The service specifications proposed to be offered to both GMS and PMS practices – for cancer, Saturday opening and proactive care – are

currently being discussed the CCG to ensure that all practices are in a position to provide the service and KPIs required.

Concerns/issues that still need resolving. Your LMC and Londonwide LMCs is continuing to work with NHS England/Hounslow CCG to resolve these issues which include:

- PMS practice baseline calculations provided to PMS practices.
- Decommissioning plans for services currently provided with PMS premium funding.
- The development of an appropriate service specification for both GMS and PMS practices.

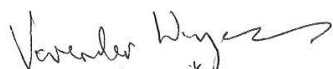
Taking the time needed to resolve these outstanding issues is essential not just for PMS practices but for GMS too as the services being funded from the PMS premium will be on offer to all practices, and must be deliverable by all.

Questions you may be asking

- Is the delay in finalising the PMS Review disadvantaging GMS practices?
All practices, both GMS and PMS, will be disadvantaged if the Commissioning Intentions on offer from the CCG using PMS premium monies are not deliverable and adequately funded. GMS practices will also suffer if PMS practices are destabilised as a result of the Review. For this reason, it is essential that accurate baseline calculations and transition arrangements are in place before the Review proceeds.
- Will Hounslow practices, GMS and PMS, lose out on funding if the Review is not finalised by the end of March 2018?
Hounslow CCG may add additional funding to the PMS premium when it commissions new services. It is reported that £1 million has been earmarked in the CCG's budget for this. However, the CCG is at liberty to spend any money that is not part of the PMS premium in locally commissioned services without waiting for the PMS Review to be completed.

It is important therefore to stress to all practices, GMS and PMS, that the LMC is working hard to ensure a well-conducted PMS Contract Review will deliver the best possible outcomes for **all** practices.

If you have further questions or concerns relating to these issues please contact your Londonwide LMCs' NW sector [team](#)



Dr Varendar Winayak
Chair
Hounslow LMC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Betts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Jane Betts
Director of Primary Care Strategy
Londonwide LMCs