

To GP practices

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Dear Colleague

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Support for GP practices to enable online access to detailed coded information in GP records

During 2014/15 virtually all practices enabled their systems for online booking of appointments, online ordering of repeat prescriptions and online access to summary information within patient records (allergies, medications, adverse reactions).

The GMS contract and PMS agreements 2015/16 require GP practices to offer online access to detailed information from the GP record i.e. information held in coded form, where requested by the patient and where GPSoC approved systems are available, by 31 March 2016. The EMIS and TPP (SystemOne) systems are already approved for use and INPS and Microtest plan to have systems available in February 2016.

If you have already enabled this service, there is no further action to take. If you are yet to activate it, we would strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible, so that you can take advantage of the support available and avoid the very busy period at the end of March. There are guidance and advice materials available, as well as locally based Patient Online implementation leads and clinicians who can help.

Enabling online access to detailed coded information at organisational level will not mean that any of your patients automatically have access to their records. You will still be able to decide on an individual basis if and when they would benefit from such access.

We have provided a summary of the support on offer over the page. If you have any queries, require assistance or would like to give us feedback, please contact the Patient Online team on England.patient-online@nhs.net and your local support lead will contact you within 48 hours.

Best wishes



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There are a number of resources available to help you activate online services for patients.

1. Interactive Support and Resources Guide can be found on NHS England website: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/patient-online/>
2. The RCGP supporting guidance is available on the RCGP website: <http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/patientonline>

Both EMIS and TPP systems have GPSoC approval. INP and Microtest are currently going through the approval process.

If you are an EMIS or TPP practice, you can already enable the functionality at the practice level. This will not give automatic access to patients. You will then need to give access to GP records to individual patients as they request it. This process is in place to ensure the patient and practice safety.

INPS and Microtest will be coming on stream shortly. The companies will be contacting their users as soon the functionality becomes available.

Below are links to the supplier websites for your reference:

EMIS users: <http://www.emis-online.com/patient-access>

TPP users: <http://www.tpp-uk.com/products/systmonline>

INPS users: <http://www.inps4.co.uk/vision/products/online-access-for-patients>

Microtest users: <http://www.microtest.co.uk/index.php?disp=catalogue.php>