

PMS Contract Reviews - Bulletin No.1

PMS practices will be aware that NHSE has been tasked with undertaking a national review of PMS contracts. This is due to be completed by 31st March 2016.

This bulletin seeks to answer questions posed by practices following the introduction of the PMS contract review by NHSE in February 2014 which included:

- [NHSE's letter to Area Teams on 3 February 2014](#),
- [PMS Review Gateway Reference 01 in February 2014](#), and
- [NHSE's Framework for PMS reviews in September 2014](#).

Question 1 – What is the role of Londonwide LMCs in this contract review?

To provide expertise and resources to:

- Keep all practices across London updated with key information.
- Offer advice and support to borough LMCs, PMS negotiating groups and practices.
- Provide clarity and minimise the impact of policy implementation at practice level.
- Engage with NHS England at a pan-London level.

Question 2 – What is the role of the Local Medical Committee?

- To facilitate the formation of a locally appointed PMS negotiation group. This group will require a mandate from PMS practices to negotiate the new PMS contract on their behalf, your sector team can advise on this.
- To ensure all practices have access to key information and clarity on who is leading the process locally.

Question 3 - What is the role of NHSE?

- NHSE is the statutory body that holds all Primary Medical Services contracts with GP practices (GMS, PMS and APMS).
- NHSE is responsible for implementing the PMS contract review in collaboration with CCGs.
- NHSE will be making the new core PMS contract offer to practices and will also be making a selection of 'premium' PMS services available to CCGs in the form of KPIs.
- NHSE, with support from CCG and CSU representatives, will offer individual meetings to PMS practices who wish to discuss the new contract offer with them.

Question 4 – What is the role of the CCG?

This depends on each CCG's co-commissioning/delegation level -

- **Level One** CCGs will be informed of the process and the new contract offer, but NHSE will lead on and be ultimately responsible for the implementation of the new PMS contract.
- **Level Two** CCGs will work with NHSE on the proposed premium KPIs in line with their local commissioning intentions and will be involved in the process as co-commissioners. Again ultimate responsibility for implementation rests with NHSE.
- **Level Three** CCGs technically have the ability and authority to lead on the process in their capacity as fully delegated commissioners. However, different Level Three CCGs in London have taken a different approach and will have varying degrees of

involvement in the review process. NHSE will retain responsibility for final assurance for any CCG decisions regardless of their delegation level.

- CCGs will have an important role to play in deciding how released funds from this PMS review will be reinvested in general practice locally.

Question 5 – What is my role as an individual PMS practice?

- To be fully aware of the KPIs and pricing of your *current* PMS contract
- To request your GMS equivalent budget from NHSE.
- To be actively involved in the appointment of a locally selected PMS group who will negotiate on your behalf, if appropriate, by signing the relevant mandate. This way you are instrumental in selecting the right people to represent you locally. (If you do not wish to be represented by any local PMS negotiating group, you do not have to).
- To stay informed of developments by ensuring you read relevant communications issued by your Borough LMC, Londonwide LMCs, NHSE, or your CCG.
- To carefully examine the new PMS contract offer when it becomes available; to assess the impact of the reviewed contract pricing with the help of your accountant and compare it with your GMS equivalent budget.
- To request a meeting with NHSE/CCG/CSU representatives if you have specific questions or wish to discuss the impact of the new contract on your practice.
- Based on careful financial and business analysis, having considered all available information and guidance and having sought expert advice from your accountant, to make an informed decision on whether you wish to accept the new PMS contract offer.
- To expect specific guidance from Londonwide LMCs on the implications of refusing to sign the new contract and how you can pursue the option of reverting to GMS.

Question 6 – What has happened so far?

- An early NHSEL communication to practices who have not already had a PMS review, asking for details on how they currently use their PMS growth money.
- There has been one communication from NHSE informing practices of the forthcoming PMS review and outlining the process and timeframe (one for [practices with Key Performance Indicators \(KPIs\)](#) and one for [practices without KPIs](#)) and a communication from [Londonwide LMCs outlining progress to date in London](#).
- NHSE are currently collating feedback from CCGs on draft key papers, ie, PMS core contract, PMS premium service specification and KPIs.
- CCGs have been asked to submit their local commissioning intentions to NHSE; the deadlines depend on whether the CCG has applied for an extension to the PMS review.

Question 7 - What happens next in this process?

- After considering the CCGs' feedback and commissioning intention submissions, NHSE will present the new PMS contract offer to practices for discussion.
- Londonwide LMCs will continue to engage with NHSE to ensure practices have the correct information and are given realistic timescales to consider the new offer.
- You may be approached for a mandate to a local PMS negotiating group if there is such an intention locally.
- Your borough LMC will communicate with you any further information.

- Further PMS review bulletins will be issued by Londonwide LMCs as more information becomes available.