

PMS Contract Reviews - Londonwide LMCs' Bulletin 10

Welcome to Londonwide Local Medical Committees (LMCs) latest Personal Medical Services (PMS) contract review bulletin.

PMS and GMS practices will be aware that in 2014 NHS England was required to undertake a national review of PMS contracts. The review criteria set out national principles for the reinvestment of PMS premiums, specifically that reinvestment:

- Reflects joint strategic plans for primary care that have been agreed with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
- Secures services or outcomes that go beyond what is expected of core general practice.
- Helps reduce health inequalities.
- Offers equality of opportunity for (PMS and GMS) GP practices in each locality.
- Supports fairer distribution of funding at a locality level.
- Reinvestment remains within each CCG area (unless CCGs agree otherwise).
- Should be implemented over a time period (minimum of four years, year one counting from 2014/15) to allow practices to adjust to new funding levels and new income opportunities.

As you know, since January 2016 Londonwide LMCs have been in discussion with NHS England London regarding a PMS “London Offer” and our PMS bulletins 1-9 have kept you up to date thus far, including the pause in the reviews which has been in place since April 2016, because we were not satisfied that any of the various versions of NHS England’s “London Offer”, along with their proposed key performance indicators (KPIs), would not destabilise practices, whether PMS or GMS.

During the pause the risk of destabilisation has been made completely clear, through our GP State of Emergency campaign and the awful reality of practice closures for patients as well as for ourselves and our staff. These stark circumstances, along with the publication in April this year of the General Practice Forward View (GPFV) have enabled a shift in NHS England’s focus away from carrying out PMS reviews solely with the purpose of equalisation, to a broader approach linked to stabilising and sustaining general practice for the long term.

Your CCG has been given the responsibility for developing plans for the stabilisation and sustainability of general practice in their area. As a result of discussions between Londonwide LMCs and the NHS in London, these plans will contain an element for the

reinvestment of PMS premiums that not only meets the national criteria as above but also our principles agreed by NHS England London:

- PMS premiums will be reinvested in general practice in order to stabilise and transform practices for long term sustainability.
- Funding changes must not risk destabilising general practices locally, or general practice across the borough.

As a result we can now confirm that the 'pause' has now been lifted. General practice sustainability plans, containing plans for the reinvestment of PMS premium funds, must be completed by CCGs by 23 December 2016 and CCGs must engage with practices in developing these plans. All plans then will be subject to an assurance process carried out by NHS England London and Londonwide LMCs.

To clarify, this means that The 'London PMS offer' has now been totally removed and all reviews will be conducted at local level; your CCG will initiate local implementation of the PMS review without any predetermined requirements by NHS England London.

We reiterate that any funding changes must be in a way that does not risk destabilising general practice and reinvestment contributes to the stabilisation and sustainability of general practice in the borough along with the funding from the GPFV for which a similar engagement and assurance process is being worked up.

Watch out for further details in PMS Bulletin 11.