



**Position Statement: The recently published draft outline service specifications for the network contract DES  
07 January 2020**

NHS England published their draft service specifications for the PCN DES on 23rd December 2019. The timing of the publication was interesting being just before the Christmas holiday. They have also produced a survey related to the draft with a completion deadline of 15th January. The LMC will submit a response. There is a risk that the other stakeholders involved in the specification development will provide most responses, so we would like to encourage as many GPs as possible to complete it in order to send a strong message to NHSE. Whilst the survey focusses on implementation there is no reason why you should not use the survey to voice your opinions on the [document](#).

We understand that although NHSE consulted widely with many stakeholders to develop this document, the specifications have not yet been discussed or negotiated with the General Practitioners Committee (GPC). We struggle to understand why our representative body was excluded from the production of the draft when they had been very involved with the development of last year's contract.

At best these specifications are aspirational. They represent what good *could* look like albeit with unnecessary and prescriptive monitoring together with some worrying suggestions about future developments.

**HOWEVER, they are not achievable with the current level of resource, workforce and workload in general practice**

There should be outright rejection of these specifications until there has been robust negotiation to achieve something that is fit for purpose, deliverable and comes with significant additional investment. Such has been the widespread condemnation of the specifications so far that NHS England must take notice as the future of their Long-Term Plan and Primary Care Networks could be at risk.

Please could we also ask that you complete this short [SurveyMonkey](#) questionnaire.

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