



24th March 2020

Dear Colleagues

The CCG and Kent LMC are determined to support practices to get on with the job in hand, without having to be concerned about financial pressure, at this extremely difficult time when GPs and practice teams are doing all they can to provide essential patient care. This is our key aim and we have worked closely together with this single goal in mind. We will continue to work in this fashion. Thank you for all that you are doing and will continue to do.

DES / LES :

As you are aware, NHSE have committed to practices that in addition to the GMS contract the additional payments for DES and LES will be paid on a block basis for the first three months of 2020/21. Practically this means the CCG will take an average of the LES and DES payments from last year and make a block payment based on that calculation. This means that practice income levels in the first quarter will be protected against any adverse impact of COVID-19.

AQP :

For AQP, community and other services that are provided by GP practices the CCG will also make a block payment based on historic activity for the first three months in 2020/21, whilst the CCG works through how these services should be funded going forward. We are keen to ensure the fixed costs that providers have are covered in this period, this follows the principle applied to NHS Trusts to cover the costs of their services whilst releasing clinical resource to manage the response to COVID-19. We would expect that practices can release resources from these contracts to support the response. This means that practice income levels in the first quarter of 2020/21, will be protected against any adverse impact of COVID-19 on activity, similar to the principles of DES/LES.

Additional money:

The CCG is, in addition, also planning to make a payment to support the practices for costs incurred in your response to COVID-19. It will make a one off payment of 60 pence per patient, based on the January 2020 raw list size, which is unconditional and will be retained by the practice to cover costs.

The CCG will, in addition to the 60 pence above, and in order to help with cash flow, make a further payment on account of 40 pence per patient based on the January 2020 list size for cost that you may have incurred over and above the first 60 pence, which is currently being modelled to reflect the differing needs of practices.

This means practices will be receiving an additional £1 per patient to help cover the challenges of responding to COVID-19.

The CCG will continue to support you through any other reasonable costs that you have incurred in response to COVID-19, as per guidance from NHSE. We understand that with effect from April 2020, this will be a monthly submission to NHSE for funding.

The CCG and LMC will continue to work together to ensure that the costs are reimbursed on a fair basis and practices in the future are not financially penalised while dealing with the crisis. Going forward, where costs can be driven out of the NHS system, e.g. by accessing other funding sources or by using flexibilities in other contracts, we will jointly agree any changes in the payment to match any direct cost reduction achieved. This may include using any flexibilities available in sub-contracting or leasing arrangements.

The CCG will provide more detail as to the timing of urgent payments of the emergency cash injection (the 60p+40p payments) as soon as possible. Detailed FAQs will be available tomorrow to answer queries and provide further guidance.

We would like to thank you for all your hard work and significant effort during this challenging time of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Dr Gaurav Gupta
Chairman
Kent Local Medical Committee



Dr Navin Kumta
Clinical Chair
Kent and Medway CCG