



Kent Local Medical Committee

Supporting list based personalised care, the partnership model and meaningful collaboration

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To All Kent & Medway GP Practices

Dear Colleague

PCN DES 2020/21 – Kent LMC View

Several practices have contacted the LMC for advice on whether to sign up to the PCN DES. We are aware that many of you have read the advice of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire LMC which can be found [here](#).

Kent LMC discussed the DES at our virtual Full Committee meeting on 23rd April. The Committee did not agree to make a recommendation to practices because there have been different experiences of being part of a PCN across Kent & Medway. Some practices are finding advantages in working together, and particularly during the COVID pandemic, but there are also practices who are not seeing the benefits. The LMC have created an active PCN CD Group which is meeting regularly and providing additional support.

When the revised specification was issued in March there was disappointment because there had been an expectation that it would resemble last year's specification much more closely to enable PCNs to continue to form and to help get through the pandemic. Sadly, there are still many onerous requirements, especially around Enhanced Health in Care Homes. There is also concern that most of the funding is for Additional Roles Reimbursement and does not adequately reflect the additional workload for existing practice staff in delivering the services.

The LMC believes that practices should have a genuine choice over whether to sign up to the DES or not and we acknowledge that there may be a number who decide not to. This is likely to be a difficult decision and we have expressed concern to the CCG about their requirement that practices inform them of their intentions early to mid May. The contractual requirement is that practices inform the CCG of their intentions by 31st May. This will allow precious time to consider all the consequences of whichever choice you make.

We have previously provided a summary of the DES, which is attached to this letter for your convenience.

In summary the LMC advice is to consider carefully what is right for your practice. We will be working to ensure that whatever decision you make you will still be supported by the system. The PCN DES is dependent on practices individually signing up to it, or not. PCNs are intended to help make general practice sustainable.

Kent LMC would like to assure you that we are here to support all practices.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Liz Mears
Director of Operations



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PCN DES 2020/21 Summary

General

- By 31 May 2020 confirm PCN with CCG
- There will be auto-enrolment for 2021 PCN DES unless practices opt-out
- Introduction of Network Dashboard to be used for benchmarking and identifying areas for improvement
- By September 2020 Schedule 7 agreement with community providers, mental health providers and community pharmacy providers must be in place
- Extended Hours requirements remain
- Introduction of Structured Medication Reviews (SMRs) delayed until October 2020 and will be based on capacity of PCN clinical pharmacist/s

Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH)

- By 31 July 2020
 - Care Homes will be aligned to PCNs
 - PCN must have plan with local partners on how EHCH will operate
 - Agree lead GP/s
- By 30 September 2020 have established MDTs with community providers
- From 1 October 2020
 - Deliver weekly ward round conducted by appropriate clinician with medical input from GP or geriatrician
 - Have in place personal support plans for residents agreed with patient/carer and based on principles and domains of a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment
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Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS)

- Pharmacy Technicians, Health & Wellbeing Coaches, Care Co-ordinators, Physicians Associates, First Contact Physios, Dieticians, Podiatrists and Occupational Therapists added to ARRS
- Can have a mix of roles based on local need, with limits on Pharmacy Technicians and First Contact Physios
- PCNs can bid for unclaimed ARRS funding, but not guaranteed beyond March 2021
- ARRS funding equates to £7.131 per PCN weighted population patient

Early Cancer Diagnosis

- From 1 October 2020
 - PCNs to review quality of Core Network Practices' suspected cancer referrals in line with NICE guidance 12
 - Contribute to uptake of cancer screening programmes
 - Establish a community of practice and conduct peer to peer learning events

Finance

- £0.27 PCN Support payment (for period 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020)
- £1.761 practice Network Participation Payment
- £0.722 PCN CD payment
- £1.50 Core PCN Funding
- £1.45 PCN Extended Hours payment
- £60 per bed ECHC payment (for period 1 Aug 2020 to 31 Mar 2021)
- £7.131 ARRS payment
- Additional funding may be announced for period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021 depending on COVID19 situation