

Publications Gateway Reference **08466**

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For the attention of all GPs

cc.

NHS England Directors of Commissioning Operations  
Heads of Primary Care  
Clinical Leaders and Accountable Officers  
NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups  
OOH Providers

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: 2018/19 Winter Indemnity Scheme for additional extended hours/out of hours/unscheduled care sessions**

As you will be aware, NHS England is undertaking a programme of activities designed to support general practice in managing winter pressures. One recognised pressure has been the rising costs of clinical negligence which may particularly affect GPs who wish to increase their sessional commitments working in out of hours or extended access services, for example over winter. Whilst work with the Department of health and Social Care (DHSC) continues to implement a state backed indemnity scheme, we are running again this year a winter indemnity scheme to support GPs who wish to offer **additional** extended access and/or out of hours sessions over the winter season.

NHS England will cover the cost of professional indemnity for any additional extended or out-of-hours work undertaken by GPs this winter to give GPs freedom to work additional sessions without having to pay additional subscriptions to their medical defence organisation (MDO).

This scheme has been developed in conjunction with the MDOs and will run between 01 October 2018 and 31 March 2019.

If you are a GP who would be interested in accessing the scheme, please contact

your MDO to express your interest. We would advise that you check your current sessional cover, as you may have access to further sessions within your current allocation. We would stress that this scheme is designed to meet the costs of indemnifying **additional** extended and out-of-hours work this winter; GPs should not amend their previous levels of indemnity.

When applying for sessions, GPs can choose from a number of 'packages' which will provide occurrence based cover<sup>i</sup> for a specified number of sessions. (e.g. 8/16/24/32 sessions). Your MDO will calculate the number of sessions you need based upon your expected work pattern. You will need to give your personal details along with details of the extended hours / out-of-hours provider(s) with whom you propose to undertake the extra sessions. NHS England will collect your details from your MDO during the course of the scheme as we will need to undertake audit checks to ensure that we are covering a correct number of sessions.

You will be able to make further applications for a block of sessions once you have used your initial allocation, and you will be required to provide a return towards the end of the scheme, advising your MDO of any unused sessions so that they can ensure the total final number of sessions they claim for corresponds with the number actually done.

You can find information on how to apply for the scheme via your MDO website at:

- [www.medicaldefensesociety.com/winterindemnity](http://www.medicaldefensesociety.com/winterindemnity)
- <https://www.themdu.com/winterindemnity>
- [www.medicalprotection.org/winter-indemnity](http://www.medicalprotection.org/winter-indemnity)
- <https://www.mddus.com/forms/winter>

The MDOs will need to confirm that membership of the scheme is in place prior to additional session being undertaken. In most circumstances, the MDO will be able to have a rapid response to a request for additional cover. The MDOs do however reserve the right to decline additional cover in certain circumstances.

For further information please contact [england.primarycareops@nhs.net](mailto:england.primarycareops@nhs.net)

Yours faithfully



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<sup>i</sup> This includes those GPs who have opted to move onto the MDU transitional claims paid scheme