



11th July 2019

Re: Extended Hours

Dear Practices,

The Secretariat of BBOLMCs has been made aware of some concerns amongst constituents regarding the reduction in payment for the delivery of extended hours.

The Extended Hours DES ended on 30th June 2019 and this service became part of the Primary Care Network (PCN) DES on 1st July. This service is now the responsibility of networks, rather than individual practices to provide. The amount of funding for this service was reduced from £1.90 to £1.45 per patient.

Whilst it has been said that this 45p has been rolled into Global Sum to compensate for this reduction, that money has been repurposed for other things such as 111 Direct Booking. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no specific amount of 45p itemised for delivery of extended hours. Global Sum itself is, by its very nature, a single global amount with no itemised divisible component parts. Furthermore, the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) contains no mention of any such 45p entitlement to practices for the delivery of extended hours services.

As the responsibility and funding for delivery of extended hours is now at network rather than practice level, individual practices are under no core contractual obligation whatsoever to use any of their core practice funding, either Global Sum, SFE payments or otherwise in the delivery of and participation with the PCN DES. Notwithstanding this, practices are free to spend their practice funding however they wish. Whilst any PCN may – through an appropriate agreement with consent of all practices – agree that practice core funding may be used in network delivery, practices should by no means feel compelled to do so.

In summary:

- The funding for extended hours has been cut by 45p and the delivery of services will be adversely affected. PCNs are advised to bear this cut in funding in mind when designing and delivering services
- We advise against practices using their core funding to pay for delivery of PCN DES services. Any practices feeling pressured to do this, or feeling it is unavoidable should contact the LMC for assistance
- If commissioners and NHS England wish to deliver fit for purpose PCN services then they should fund them

We hope this is of assistance.

Regards,

Dr. Matt Mayer
Chief Executive Officer
Secretary – Berkshire & Buckinghamshire

Dr. Richard Wood
Chief Executive Officer
Secretary – Oxfordshire