



Position Statement: Digital First 13 August 2019

NHS England have launched the [Digital-First Primary Care Policy consultation on patient registration, funding and contracting rules](#) and we would ask practices to respond to the consultation if they have their own views or concerns on the proposals.

As an LMC we are fully supportive of the need to embrace new technologies in meeting patient needs into the GP offer. We have looked at these proposals in some detail and have attended an NHSE Webinar and had hoped to produce some meaningful detailed guidance for practices to consider before they draw their own conclusions. However, our overwhelming view is that these proposals are simply too complicated to solve the problems they are trying to address. In addition, because there are so many variables within the proposals and some questions that do not appear to have any direct relevance to the actual issue that they are trying to address, the LMC have some serious concerns about the potential implications and unintended consequences that might befall general practice if these proposals are implemented. The best example of this is the final question which asks:

“Alongside these potential changes, do you agree that PCNs could become the default means to maintain primary care provision, thus removing the need for most local APMS procurements?”

Therefore, the LMC view is that these proposals should not be implemented in their current form and NHS England should stop this consultation and produce a series of new consultations broken down into the constituent parts which seek to address the disaggregated parts to the questions. We will be responding to the consultation expressing these concerns and you may wish to consider adopting a similar approach. In addition, the GPC have also published their views and we include a [link](#) to these for practices to consider.

**David Gibbs
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