

February 29th Newsletter

GMS Contract Changes 2016-17

The General Practitioners' Committee (GPC) voted to accept the contract changes which have been [announced](#).

- There are far fewer changes than in previous years
- £220 million of investment into the contract - the 3.2% total uplift recognises expenses incurred for CQC fees, indemnity fees, NI Contributions Superannuation Increases, and increased utility and other costs
- It also includes a 'real' uplift of 1% over and above the expenses set out in their letter to professionals (see [here](#) for full letter)
- Includes an uplift of 28% for vacs and imms from £7.64 to £9.80
- Dementia Enhanced Service ceases end March 2016, and other nationally directed Enhanced Services remain unchanged
- There will be an access survey - practices will be required to inform NHS England of the availability of evening and weekend appointments, once every six months

See the [NHS Employers](#) website for the full list of contract changes.

General Practice needs a serious, meaningful rescue package, and we hope the GPC lobbies hard for this from 2017. The above increase is better than nothing, but it only buys general practice some breathing space.



Rescue Package

We've been hearing since January a rescue package is being developed for general practice. An article on [GP Online](#) tells us that NHS England advise this may not be announced until April now. We can only hope that there are serious discussions going on which will deliver something meaningful. The 'New Deal' that was 'No Deal' only served to demoralise and alienate the GP workforce.

Urgent Prescription for General Practice

You should now have received your copies of the [resource packs](#), which have been

sent to all GP practices in England and Wales from the BMA. We encourage you to make as much use of them as possible. The packs include useful guidance material and template letters on how to contact local media and lobby the local politician, as well as posters to be displayed in practices and mini prescription cards which can be completed by patients. Copies can also be downloaded from the [BMA website](#).

It is vital that we keep up the momentum with concurrent messages locally and nationally, to the Government, to press for urgent action to stabilise general practice and provide the basis for a sustainable service for patients in the future.

Practices can send information or stories to gpincrisis@bma.org.uk.

You can [read more](#) about the campaign, and view and tweet at [#gpincrisis](#) or use the [#gpincrisistwibbon](#) to share infographics and further information about the campaign.



Indicators no longer in QOF

Practices in some areas have been asked again to accept requests within the Calculating Quality Reporting Service (CQRS) for the extraction of indicators no longer in QOF.

GPC advised LMCs in 2015 on this data extract, confirming our position that the

decision to retire and amend these indicators was intended to reduce bureaucracy and allow practices to focus on the needs of patients. These indicators were successfully removed during negotiations as being clinically inappropriate and unhelpful to practices.

As such, there is no expectation that practices should continue to focus on achieving these targets, and GPs should instead continue to use professional judgment to treat patients in accordance with best clinical practice guidelines. It is for clinicians to decide how they record clinical consultations and what codes, if any, to use.

Practices should be reassured that the previous GP contract agreement still stands, and there is no contractual requirement for practices to record codes for former QOF indicators. However, practices are also asked to note the position outlined within the 2015/16 QOF guidance - that practices are encouraged to facilitate data collection of these indicators. The data is intended to inform commissioners and practices and provide statistical information. It is not intended for any performance management purposes.

GPC anticipates a large fall in the recording of many of the retired codes, particularly those that were previously imposed, as practices now work more appropriately. In our view, allowing retired codes to be extracted could help to demonstrate how inappropriate it was to impose contract changes in the first place, as well as informing discussions between GPC and Government on the development of more appropriate future indicators of quality care.

BMA Sessional GPs newsletter

The BMA produces a newsletter for sessional GPs/locums. It can be accessed [here](#). Please can you share this newsletter with any locum GPs you employ?



PCSE Portal

Practices should have been notified by NHS England that with effect from September 2015 primary care support services were being transferred to Capita. The new name for this provider is Primary Care Support England (PCSE). Details about this programme are available [here](#).

PCSE will shortly launch a new online portal. The portal will provide all primary care contractors with a quick and easy way for ordering and tracking supplies from PCSE, including pre-printed forms, prescription pads and other NHS stationery.

Over time, the portal will also become the main route for accessing additional primary care support services, including payments, pharmacy market entry and performer list applications.

Full details about the portal and how to register are available on the PCSE website [here](#).

FFT Workshops

Central Midlands Friends and Family Test Awareness Event

Monday, 7 March 2016

10am – 4pm

Leicester Racecourse

Following the successful roll-out of the Friends and Family Test (FFT) to most NHS-funded healthcare settings across the country, NHS England is now looking to further raise patients' and the public's awareness of FFT in the Central Midlands area. Currently, about a million pieces of feedback are collected across the country each month, thanks to this important tool. By listening to patients, many commissioners and providers have been able to make changes to services and improve the patient's experience.

NHS England likes to work with you to build on these successes by raising awareness of the opportunity for more people from across the Central Midlands to give their feedback.

They will be holding a local FFT Patient Experience Conference on improving quality by learning from feedback on **Monday, 7th March 2016 from 10am – 4pm at The Leicester Racecourse. The finalised programme is now available.** To register please [click here](#). If you need any further information, please contact 0113 8249584 or Sheila.darji@nhs.net

The conference will focus on the Friends and Family Test and other ways to achieve patient insight across the NHS. Chaired by Martin Fahy, Deputy Director of Nursing & Quality, Central Midlands NHS England, the conference theme will be around improving quality by learning from feedback. The day will include interesting talks from industry experts and practical examples of success and good practice. GP and Dental Practices are welcome to showcase their achievements and

service improvements following the implementation of FFT.

This event is aimed at people leading patient insight and experience work in GP and Dental Practice as well as commissioning services, who can play a vital role in making a difference through the use of insight data in their organisations.

By attending the event, delegates will:

- Have an increased awareness of improving quality by learning from feedback.
- Develop further understanding of relative strengths and weaknesses of different sources of insight.
- Take an active part in the first steps in establishing networks to share best practice and learn from each other.

Releasing Capacity Roadshow
16th March Leicester Racecourse.
(Registration closes: 10th March 2016)

Details: Practice managers, GPs and NHS England Primary Care leads are invited to join a free workshop looking at practical ways to reduce pressure in the practice. NHS England and the BMA are jointly hosting a series of half day workshops around the country. At the workshops, you will see the latest evidence on preventable workload, hear what the NHS is doing to reduce bureaucracy, and learn about solutions being implemented by practices around England. You will leave with your own action plan to start understanding and releasing pressure points in the practice's workload.

Background information: The workshops are part of NHS England's programme of work to strengthen general practice and follows the Making Time in General Practice report which was published in October 2015. An easy to use web based resource, which looks at the findings of the report, its recommendations and related good practice can be found on the [NHS Alliance website](#).

Additional information for delegates: Please contact Claire Parker on email address england.gpaccess@nhs.net with any queries about the roadshow.

Further details can be found on NHS England [website](#)