



## GP Contract Update 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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### 2019/20 GP Contract IT and Digital Requirements

The 2019/20 GP contract introduced widespread changes aimed at addressing both the workforce and workload pressures currently experienced by GPs in England. These changes will span the five years from April 2019 with elements introduced throughout the five years.

2019 has focussed on creating Primary Care Networks and building the foundations.

As part of the [19/20 contract agreement](#), the GPC secured commitment for a recommended specification for IT and digital for Commissioners, to ensure that all IT and digital support is functional and appropriate.

One feature of the contractual changes is that all patients have access online correspondence by 01 April 2020. There was a caveat attached to this in that the necessary technology needed to have been made available to practices to facilitate this.

Within Humber, Coast and Vale (HCV) a procurement exercise took place and Wiggly Amps was selected as the technology provider

- Should a practice wish to choose an alternative provider to the one procured by HCV, the practice will need to ensure they use a provider that is included on the national framework for OLC to ensure they have met the relevant governance checks
- Practices who choose to install an alternative provider will be unable to access funding through NHS E to support the licence costs as that funding is for the tool procured by HCV

Full details on IT and Digital support covering the five years is set out in the BMA's guidance [IT and digital requirements](#) (pdf) and the key 19/20 contractual requirements that practices should be mindful of are summarised below.

During 2019/20, practices will prepare for the following:

- provide all patients with online access to their full record (using/referring to national NHS Login identity verification: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/nhs-login/>), including the ability to add their own information from April 2020
- all patients to access online correspondence by April 2020
- no longer use fax machines for NHS work or patient correspondence, by April 2020
- offer online consultations (subject to further guidance)
- ensure they have an up-to-date and informative online presence by April 2020
- register a practice email address with MHRA CAS alert system and monitor the
- email account to act on CAS alerts where appropriate
- register a mobile phone number(s) to MHRA CAS to be used only as an emergency back up to email for text alerts when email systems are down from October 2019
- make at least 25% of appointments available for online booking by July 2019

### Primary Care Network Improvement Leads Programme 2020

The Time for Care team have a further two programme offers scheduled for early 2020 which are open to anyone from England meeting the eligibility criteria. The programme comprises of six full days over three-four months with supported webinars in between the modules. One of the programmes will run in Leeds with a start date of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

The programme is aimed at building improvement skills in those in a formal or informal PCN lead role. This could include GPs, Practice Managers, or community nurses – it isn't solely for clinical directors.

Full details can be found in the [programme information flyer](#) (pdf) and applications can be made online at <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/456618b4/>. Closing date to apply is 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with Jenny Drew at NHS England and NHS Improvement - [jenny.drew2@nhs.net](mailto:jenny.drew2@nhs.net).

### PCN National Conference 2020

Building on the BMA's first conference for PCN clinical directors earlier this year, they are now preparing for a much bigger event in 2020. This will provide an opportunity to join other PCN leaders and gain insight into what's happening across England, share best practice and build supportive relationships. The PCN Conference will be on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, at the ICC Birmingham**. It is

suitable for clinical directors, PCN leads and those providing supporting management. Learn more and get your early bird discount (available until 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020) at [www.bma.org.uk/pcn-whats-next](http://www.bma.org.uk/pcn-whats-next)

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