

To:

All practices in Surrey & Sussex LMCs

All PCN Clinical Directors in Surrey & Sussex LMCs

6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Colleagues

## PCN DES 2020/21

Although self-evidently not at the forefront of everyone's mind, I am writing to all practices to summarize the current LMC analysis of the PCN DES 2020/21, which commenced 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

In a different world, colleagues will recall the PCN DES generated considerable controversy, but was agreed by GPC as part of the 2020/21 GP Contract Agreement. The Special LMC Conference on 11<sup>th</sup> March did not support the PCN DES but the ramifications of that have subsequently been lost by the Covid-19 emergency preparations. There have also been adjustments made to the PCN DES specifications in the light of the Covid19 emergency (as below)

The medico-political challenges that would have ensued from the LMCs Special Conferences' vote against the PCN DES, given that GPC had already supported it, have been deferred, and although probably not forgotten I would suggest may not be relevant to the decision GP colleagues should now make.

### The LMC is recommending practices continue to remain signed up to the PCN DES for 20/21

The rationale for this is that the PCN DES now represents a vehicle for funding within General Practice

The LMCs continuing guidance is below.

- 1) **Sign up:** the PCN DES will roll over as it is now an annual 'opt out' DES. For 2020/21 the opt out is until the end of May, in subsequent years each opt out period will be each April. I confirm practices **will** remain able to opt out on an annual basis. The LMC recommends that practices should inform their CCG early than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 if they are intending to 'opt-out' as this has implications for funding and for other practices within the PCN, and, in some cases, for the wider PCN configuration.
- 2) **Extended Hours:** in all CCGs SSLMCs has agreed the following approach to offering Extended Hours during the Covid19 emergency with the £1.45 payment unaffected.

To: All Practices

Subject: **Extended Hours Arrangements during COVID-19 Emergency**

Dear Colleagues

The LMC following discussion with your local CCG and in response to several enquiries wishes to clarify the arrangements for Extended Hours appointments

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Extended Hours appointments are offered under the PCN DES and a payment is made to each PCN for offering such appointments, normally this is then transferred to the provider, which in the Surrey and Sussex LMC Confederation is usually the individual GP practice

As the primary focus for all GP practices during the current national emergency is to provide a practice COVID-19 response and prioritise the delivery of essential services to patients, PCNs and GP practices are only expected to continue to offer Extended Hours appointments if they can do so whilst still prioritising such patient care. The LMC and CCG agree that practices are not expected to continue to deliver Extended Hours appointments at present as long as practices continue to prioritise their Covid19 response in terms of both clinical and administrative staff working, noting that staff should work remotely where this is feasible. The CCGs will make no financial adjustment to PCN DES payments in such circumstances

Best wishes

**Dr Julius Parker**  
SSLMCs Chief Executive

## Surrey and Sussex LMCs

3) The following income streams either remain or have been adjusted:

- **Additional Roles Re-imbursment Scheme (ARRS):** the funding associated with this remains in place and can be accessed by PCNs. The preparation by PCNs of workforce plans has been postponed to 31<sup>st</sup> August, in the first instance.
- **Investment and Impact Fund (IIF).** The IIF incentive scheme ('PCN QOF') had been suspended for six months and the equivalent funding of 27p per patient is being paid directly to CCGs. This is now known as the PCN Support Payment. The LMC is identifying this funding with CCGs for potential support to General Practice.
- **PCN Clinical Director Payments** remain unchanged.
- **The Network Participation Payment of £1.76 per weighted patient** will continue to be paid to practices who remain signed up to the PCN DES.
- **CCG £1.50 funding** will be paid to PCNs.

### Service Specifications

- The commencement of the Medicine Optimisation has been deferred, in the first instance, until October 2020

- PCNs should be working on the Early Cancer Diagnosis service specifications “unless work to support the Covid19 response intervenes”. The LMC anticipates this will be the case for practices locally.
- Enhanced Health in Care Homes service specification is still in place according to NHS England’s letter of 19<sup>th</sup> March; this is in place because it was originally intended to try to align practice/PCN response to care homes with the Covid19 response. This programme seems to have faltered and the LMC suggests no action is taken under this service specification except if this is part of the practices’ response to the Covid19 emergency, which clearly will require practice support to Care Homes in any event.

I hope this background is helpful and the LMC believes that in the current exceptional circumstances a pragmatic approach should be taken, which maximizes support to practices.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Julius Parker  
**Chief Executive**