

General Practice: Finance Matters

March | 2018



GMS Contract Update 2018/19

General Practice is in a precarious state with the number of experienced GPs leaving the profession far exceeding those joining it. As a result, there is a notable strain within the Primary Care system, in particular the vanguard of Primary Care which is General Practice, to effectively and efficiently manage the increasing demand for healthcare services with a diminishing workforce.

NHS England has recognised that there is 'work' to be done outside the core General Medical Services [GMS] contract and amongst other initiatives, it is running regional workshops and webinars to explore ways of managing demand and optimising capacity at a local level.

As we approach April 2018, negotiations around the 2018/19 GMS contract [due to come into effect from 1 April 2018] are still ongoing but there has been a steady trickle of headline statements already released:

- Minimum changes expected to the 2018/19 GMS contract
- Continued focus to align funding for healthcare services delivered through GMS, PMS or APMS contracts
- No changes to QOF [apart for uplift for CPI]

- NHS Pay Review Body [NHSPRB] confirmed in Jan 2018 that the 1% public sector pay policy will no longer apply to public sector pay awards for 2018-19; however no additional Government funding has been provided for a pay uplift in excess of 1%
- Indemnity cover uplift to be paid to practices on a per patient basis and to be allocated to/reimburse all GPs [salaried and partners] in the practice
- Commitment being sought to uplift tariff for: vacs and imms item of service sickness and paternity payments
- NHS standard hospital contract amended such that only referrals processed via the Electronic Referral System [ERS] will be paid.

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An update on the 2018/19 NHS GMS contract will be circulated once the final 2018/19 contract has been published.

Primary Care Support England

In 2015, NHS England appointed Capita Business Services Ltd [Capita] to undertake a major transformation of primary care support services and over a 7-year period deliver significant cost savings. Known as Primary Care Support England [PCSE], Capita provides administrative and support services on behalf of NHS England. Core services include:

- Contract management - GP pay and pensions
- Management of medical records
- Patient registration and maintenance of lists of new GPs.

Since spring 2016, NHS England and many service users have identified areas where performance was falling short of those contracted. Subsequently, the National Audit Office has commenced a review of NHS England's management of the Primary Care Support contract with Capita, the findings of which are due to be released later this year.



...we're with you

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