GMS contract changes 2020/21
FEBRUARY 2020

Here is our summary of the key points in the GMS contract as set out in the document published by NHS England and the BMA on 6 February 2020. Download the full document here.

Enhancing the additional roles reimbursement scheme

More roles added to the additional roles reimbursement scheme (ARRS).

- Pharmacy technicians
- Care co-ordinators
- Health coaches
- Dieticians
- Podiatrists
- Occupational therapists
- Mental health professionals – from April 2021

Reimbursement for all existing and future roles to be at 100%.

Information about guaranteed investment in the ARRS and average PCN funding under the scheme can be found on p12 of the NHS England/BMA document.

More doctors working in general practice

Pension review being undertaken.

GP trainee numbers to increase from 3500 to 4000 a year from 2021.

New to partnership payment of £20,000 to be made plus £3,000 for business training.

Releasing time to care

Digitisation of Lloyd George records to start in 2020.

Access

A new GP access improvement programme will be introduced.
Every PCN and practice will offer a core digital service from April 2021.

From 2020, all GPs and PCNs will be required to participate in NHS Digital’s “appointments in general practice” data collection exercise. The start date will depend on when IT systems are updated.

**Patient experience and feedback**

A “near real-time” measure of patient experience to be introduced.

**Reforming the payment arrangements for vaccinations and immunisations**

The findings of the vaccinations and immunisations review will be implemented over the next two years.

The payment model will be overhauled to improve vaccination coverage.

Vaccinations and immunisations will become an essential service in 2020.

Items of service (IOS) payments will be introduced and standardised across all programmes over the next two years. MMR in 2020/21 and all other vaccines from April 2021.

New incentive payments introduced as part of QOF to replace the current childhood immunisations DES.

**Funding and patient lists**

The new value of Global Sum from 1 April will be £93.46 (from £89.88).

The new value of a QOF point will be £194.83.

From October 2020 practices will be required to support NHS England maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of patients.

From October 2020, patients whose relationship with their practice has broken down can be assigned to any practice in the CCG where the patient lives. In such cases, contractors should not have to provide home visits so may need to register them as an out-of-area patient.

The regulations will be amended to clarify the commissioner’s responsibilities to assign patients whose practice has closed.

From October 2020, the regulations will be changed so that a patient who was entered into the special allocation scheme (SAS) for violent patients cannot be removed from a practice list if they have subsequently been discharged from it for reintegration into mainstream primary care.

From October 2020, where a patient is removed from a list because they have moved outside the practice area, they will continue to be registered with the practice for 30 days after the commissioner has been notified, unless they register with another practice sooner.
However they will not have access to home visits. If a home visit is required during those 30 days the patient will be advised to register with a new practice or access the service commissioned locally for out-of-area patients.

**Updating the quality and outcomes framework (QOF)**

Asthma, COPD and heart failure domains to be overhauled.

97 points recycled into 11 more clinically appropriate indicators.

New non-diabetic hyperglycaemia indicator worth 18 point supported by £10m additional funding.

Total QOF points in 2020/21 now 567.

Quality improvement modules in 2020/21 are learning disabilities and supporting early cancer diagnosis.

Maternity medical services to become an essential service.

Non-contractual requirement for GPs to offer obese patients weight management services where clinically appropriate.

**PCN membership**

Introduction of a one-month window in 2021/22 where practices could opt out of the network contract DES, or opt in if they do not currently participate.

From April 2020 CCGs will be able to assign practices to a PCN where the mediation process has failed.

From April 2020, in order to deliver the requirements of the network contract DES, PCNs will have to agree how they will work together with their local community service provider(s), community mental health provider(s) and community pharmacies.

**Delivering the PCN service specifications**

Structured medication reviews and medicines optimisation (SMR), enhanced health in care homes and supporting early cancer diagnosis service specifications significantly improved following consultation responses.

Volume of SMRs delivered by each PCN to be determined by the clinical pharmacist capacity of the PCN.

Fortnightly medical input into care homes to be appropriate and consistent, with frequency and form based on PCN clinical judgement.

Care home premium payment of £120 per bed year when the service goes live from 30 September 2020. (£60 per bed in 2020/21 because it covers a part-year).
Every care home will be supported by a single PCN with a named GP or GP team.

Delivery plans will be agreed with community partners by 31 July 2020.

PCNs do not carry any contractual responsibility for any failure by community services to deliver their part of the service, and vice versa.

From 2021/22 at least a third of the PCN investment and impact fund will support effective delivery against the service specifications.

The remaining four service specifications – CVD diagnosis and prevention, tackling inequalities, personalised care and anticipatory care – will be introduced in 2021/22.

From April 2020 every PCN will offer a social prescribing service.

Where the PCN DES delivers services that were previously funded locally, that investment must be reinvested into primary medical care.

From October 2020 changes will be made to GMS and PMS arrangements to make it clear that onward subcontracting of clinical matters will be allowed but only in relation to the network contract DES with commissioner permission.

**The investment and impact fund (IIF)**

Similar to QOF, the fund will have eight indicators in 2020/21 relating to seasonal flu vaccination, health checks for patients with learning disabilities, social prescribing referrals and prescribing.

It will be worth £40.5m in 2020/21, rising incrementally to £300m in 2023/24.

**Digital**

From April 2020 GP practices should not use fax machines for NHS or patient communication where there is a secure electronic alternative.

From April 2020 GP practices must offer all patients online access to all prospective data on their patient record unless exceptional circumstances apply.

**Contract termination**

From October 2020 commissioners will be able to terminate a GMS contract if the contractor has had its CQC registration permanently cancelled.

**More**

For more information about our support for primary care organisations contact enquiries@pcc-cic.org.uk