

23 December 2019

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Dear colleagues

**Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) and community health – national service specifications 2020/21 engagement**

As you may know, the [GP contract framework](#), agreed by NHS England and NHS Improvement and General Practitioners Committee (GPC) England in January 2019, secured significant investment for primary care services and established primary care networks (PCNs) across the country. We are now seeking feedback on a key feature of that contract, the five national service specifications, which will be delivered by PCNs - in collaboration with community services and other providers - from April 2020.

The five-year GP contract framework, described in *Investment and Evolution*, aimed to alleviate the workforce pressures on general practice, secure enhanced investment into primary medical care, and roll out new service models to secure major improvements in proactive and preventative care for patients. *Investment and Evolution* sits within the wider context of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), which committed to a £4.5 billion rise in spending on primary care and community services by 2023/24.

A cornerstone of the new GP contract framework is the creation of PCNs through the new Network Contract Direct Enhanced Service (DES). There has been an enthusiastic response to PCNs across the country: over 99% of practices have signed up to participating in around 1,250 networks, firmly establishing PCNs as a route to greater collaboration across general practice and the wider NHS. Additional funding was committed to PCNs through the contract framework - £978 million through the core contract and £1.799 billion through the Network Contract DES.

The GP contract framework set out seven national services specifications that will be added to the Network Contract DES: five starting from April 2020, and a further two from April 2021. The five services are:

- Structured Medication Reviews and Optimisation
- Enhanced Health in Care Homes (delivered jointly with community services providers)
- Anticipatory Care (delivered jointly with community services providers)
- Personalised Care; and
- Supporting Early Cancer Diagnosis

More detail can be found in the Annexe at the end of the letter.



We are now seeking feedback on outline drafts of these service specifications from all those with an interest across the NHS, community providers, local authorities, professional bodies, charities and the public. The specifications will be finalised through GP contract negotiations.

Elements of the Anticipatory Care and Enhanced Health in Care Homes specifications will be delivered by providers of community services and we plan to commission these service requirements via the NHS Standard Contract. These requirements form part of the consultation on the Standard Contract, which is running from 19 December 2019 to 31 January 2020 and can be found [here](#).

The specifications are provided in draft form to offer an early opportunity for review and comment. There are a number of opportunities for you to share your thoughts on this outline draft:

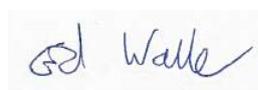
- The document is available on [our website](#) with a number of questions to be answered to help us shape the final service specifications. This will be live from today until 1pm on 15 January 2020.
- A series of facilitated interactive webinars will be taking place as follows. Please click use the links below to access the webinars at the specified times:
  - [Wednesday 8 January 2020](#) – 12 noon-1.30pm
  - [Thursday 9 January 2020](#) – 10am-11.30am
  - [Tuesday 14 January 2020](#) – 3pm-4.30pm (focusing on the community services elements of the Enhanced Health in Care Homes and Anticipatory Care service specifications, aimed at directors and chief executives of community health providers)
- Nikki Kanani, Medical Director for Primary Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement, will be hosting a Twitter chat on 7 January 2020 specifically about the service specifications. Follow #primarycarenetworks from 8pm and join in the conversation and share your views.

Feedback from this engagement will inform national contracting processes, which will conclude as soon as possible in the new year.

This is your opportunity to help shape the future of health service provision across England. We look forward to receiving your feedback by 15 January 2020 but should you have any questions, please contact [england.networkscontract@nhs.net](mailto:england.networkscontract@nhs.net)

Please do send on to your networks as needed.

Yours faithfully



**Ed Waller**  
**Director, Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts**  
**NHS England and NHS Improvement**

## **ANNEXE – headline descriptions of each specification**

### **Structured Medication Reviews (SMR)**

Evidence shows that people with long term conditions using multiple medicines have better clinical and personal outcomes following a SMR. SMRs are a NICE approved clinical intervention that help people who have complex or problematic polypharmacy. They consist of a comprehensive and clinical review of a patient's medicines and detailed aspects of their health and are delivered by facilitating shared decision-making conversations with patients, aimed at ensuring that their medication is working well for them.

### **Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH)**

Many people living in care homes are not having their needs assessed and addressed as well as they could be. The EHCH service seeks to deliver better patient care for people living in care homes, improving their health outcomes and reducing unnecessary, unplanned and avoidable admissions to hospital. The service requirements are shared across PCNs and other providers (particularly providers of community services) who will work together to deliver the model.

### **Anticipatory Care**

Anticipatory care helps people to live well and independently for longer through proactive care for those at high risk of unwarranted health outcomes. People identified as having the greatest risks and needs will be offered targeted support to improve their physical and mental health. The service requirements are shared across PCNs and other providers (particularly providers of community services) who will work together to deliver the model.

### **Personalised Care**

Personalised care means people have choice and control over the way their care is planned and delivered, based on 'what matters' to them and their individual diverse strengths, needs and preferences. Delivering this improves people's experiences of care, and their health and wellbeing outcomes, and results in more effective use of NHS services. The service will embed personalised care and support planning, shared decision making, social prescribing and patient activation in PCNs.

### **Supporting Early Cancer Diagnosis**

The NHS has a stated ambition that, by 2028, the proportion of cancers diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 will rise from around half now to three-quarters of cancer patients. Achieving this will mean that, from 2028, 55,000 more people each year will survive their cancer for at least five years after diagnosis. Primary care has a vital role to play in delivering this ambition, working closely with wider system partners including Cancer Alliances, secondary care, local Public Health Commissioning Teams and the voluntary sector.