

20 January 2021

Dear Colleague

Freeing up practices to support covid vaccination

As you will be aware, NHSE/I recently wrote to all practices to set out further support to free up GPs, practice teams and PCNs to advance the vaccine rollout and to outline steps to be undertaken by CCGs in relation to prioritisation of work. The letter can be accessed [here](#).

Your local CCG will also have been in contact with you in the last few weeks with further details on the suspension of locally commissioned services, except where these are specifically in support of vaccination, or other COVID-related support to the local system. A copy of your local letter is attached.

The NHSE/I letter also outlined a range of steps being undertaken nationally to support practices. We have outlined below how this will be implemented locally:

PCN Clinical Director Funding

There will be a temporary increase in the funding for PCN Clinical Director support for Q4 (Jan-March 21), equivalent to an increase from 0.25 WTE to 1WTE. This increase will be paid in the March payment run. This can be flexibly deployed as long as it is used to fund leadership in managing the Covid vaccination response.

Minor Surgery DES income will be income protected until March 2001

In NEL, the methodology used to calculate this will be the same as that used in Quarter 1. This applies only to practices who already provide the Minor Surgery DES.

Practices will therefore receive income protection payments in Q4 based on the average of the claims for minor surgery DES for the whole year of 2019/20.

Where a practice makes a claim for Q4 then they will receive the higher of either the claim or the income protection amount. If a practice made no claims in 2019/20, no income protection payment will be made.

We expect to make these payments in April 2021, to allow for any claims that practices may wish to make. The minimum income protection payment for minor surgery DES in NEL is £44.02

QOF

Practices will no longer be required to submit evidence for the QI domain as this income is protected for 20/21. The two QI domains for 20/21 were Early Cancer Diagnosis and Supporting People with Learning Disabilities.

The 8 prescribing indicators within QOF will be income protected on the same basis as the existing 310 points which have already been income protected. Payment will be made on past performance against the relevant clinical domains.

Extended Access

Extended hours access requirements in the Network Contract DES remain as they are but can be used flexibly such as using the capacity for vaccine delivery and access to both urgent and pre-booked appointments over the coming winter months.

General Practice Covid Capacity Expansion Fund

On 30 November we wrote to confirm that we will be making two payments for this :A Part A and Part B payment (Part A : Dec 2020 and Part B: Early 2021) We can now inform you that the part B payment will be made in the February payment run, subject to receipt of your practice plan. You are reminded that you should ensure that you keep a record of spend which will contribute towards the future audit and review of the funding across NEL which will be a requirement of receiving this funding from NHSE/I. You will receive further guidance on this reporting in due course.

Many thanks for your continued support in delivering this vitally important work

Yours sincerely

Dr Mark Rickets
NEL Clinical Lead for Primary Care

Ceri Jacob
NEL SRO for Primary Care