

## **Briefing on the GP Systems of Choice announcement for LMCs and GPC**

As colleagues will remember in March 2005 an announcement was made of a Heads of Agreement to ensure that GP practices would be able to exercise their choice of GP computer system as long as the supplier was in contract with one of the Local Service Providers in contract with the National Programme for IT (NPfIT). It has proved very difficult to work through all the issues that arose as implementing that strategy was attempted. It was decided that there would be an unacceptable cost to the health service in delivering the policy in that way.

A second strategy has been developed and approved in the GP systems of choice paper that has been widely distributed. All existing GP suppliers have been approached and asked if they wish to join the programme in providing GP systems that increasingly will offer interoperability standards that will deliver NPfIT programmes.

Nearly all existing suppliers have indicated their willingness to join in the scheme and to cost their license and support fees that will be provided centrally and passed through to the PCTs.

GPs will therefore be able to choose to stay with their own system or move to another system on the ladder and be assured that their recurrent maintenance and support fees will be supported. Any switch of system will of course have to be justified by a business case. Each supplier is expected to rationalise its estate and move its customers onto its own strategic solution.

In 2006/7 capital resources will be made available to PCTs to raise the infrastructure in place in GP surgeries to a “warranted environment”. This is the standard of hardware necessary to be in place along the chain to ensure the effective messaging necessary in readiness for a hosted environment. A detailed specification will be published early in the financial year.

The resource will move to revenue to pick up license costs as their renewal anniversary dates come up and the contracts are picked up by the new funding availability.

The levels of maturity in the model require increasing levels sophistication to enable the practices and patients to enjoy the benefits of the programmes being delivered through NPfIT.

### **Level Minimum Functionality**

- 0 **QMAS, RFA99 and Level 1 IG Compliance**
- 1 **QMAS, Choose and Book and PDS**
- 2 **Level 1 plus ETP level 2**
- 3 **Level 2 plus GP2GP**
- 4 **Level 3 plus fully hosted solution to CfH specification**
- 5 **Level 4 plus PSIS (spine summary)**
- 6 **Level 5 plus fully integrated with the LSP Care Record**

Having announced the detail of the plan the GP Systems of Choice (GPSoC) team are now collecting comments and feedback from GPs and PCTs and how the plan will be implemented. Following signing contracts with the Existing System Providers (ESP) and Local system Providers (LSP) the treasury will need to sign off the finalised business case that they have agreed in principle.

The PCTs use of the funding to deploy the specified products and services will be performance managed by the SHAs.

I enclose slides of a presentation that may make things clearer and the email address of the GPSoC team who are fielding queries from stakeholders.

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Appendix 1

<b>GP IT Provision</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>When GPSoC in Place</b>
Choice	Investment in ESP solutions is discouraged and choice is limited to LSP provision	GPs can choose between upgraded ESP solutions and the LSP provision
Service charges	Funding of ESP solutions is subject to PCT funding constraints while the LSP service is 'free' to the PCT	Service charges for ESP solutions will be funded through the PCTs and PCT delivery will be performance managed.
Practice infrastructure	PCT responsibility to fund and maintain	Remains PCT responsibility with an injection of capital funding from GPSoC in 2006/07
Migration	All system migration funded by the PCT or the practice dependant on local decisions	GPSoC will fund migration to a higher GPSoC level within an ESP's portfolio and to the LSP solution
Interoperability	Limited interoperability between existing systems and between existing systems and NPfIT functionality.	GPSoC will fund existing system upgrades to deliver ETP, GP2GP and the summary record.
Community solution	Limited to LSP provision	Limited to LSP provision