

BASKET LESs

Enhanced services subgroup view

LESs should primarily be a response to meet a need and should be costed and funded appropriately, according to this need. It is for this reason that, in general, 'basket' LESs – where specific need is undefined – can be seen as a return to the situation as was before the introduction of GMS2, whereby GPs would carry-out much work either for free or for an inadequate sum of money. Furthermore, capitation-based contracts, though easier to implement, do not recognise or take account of varying or increasing levels of activity between/within practices. Activity-based contracts on the other hand do.

Of the 'basket' LESs agreed by LMCs across the UK that the subgroup has seen, those that specifically name and define certain activities not covered by essential services are more acceptable than those that set out an agreement for practices to continue to do all the work that was being done before GMS2.

The agreed pricing for 'basket' LESs appears to range from 16p/patient to £1/patient across the UK. It is the view of the Enhanced services subgroup that the lower end of this scale is grossly under-priced and that even at the higher end, it would be difficult to determine whether or not this level of payment adequately reimburses practices for the work involved.

We are aware that negotiations regarding 'basket' LESs are usually highly complex and form only part of an overall negotiation around enhanced services. We believe however that at the very least, it would be useful for LMCs to note these views.

Enhanced services subgroup

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