



Supporting General
Practice and PCNs
through winter 2022
and beyond

A Guidance Document for Practices

Index

Overview	page 3
An ICB framework for supporting general practice	page 4
Immediate changes to the Network Contract DES	page 5
Reducing bureaucracy and primary/secondary care interface	page 6
Annexes	page 7

Overview

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support the NHS during this period of sustained significant pressure, NHS England has taken action to boost capacity ahead of winter. Recognising the fundamental importance of primary care in underpinning NHS services, a critical part of this plan is to increase capacity outside of acute trusts, which includes the scaling up of additional roles in primary care, increasing the flexibility for primary care networks (PCNs) to do this, and taking further action to support general practice. <p>To enable this, NHS England (NHSE) are taking several steps over the next few weeks to support the expansion of general practice capacity and reduce both workload and administrative burden. The measures will help general practice focus on access pressures and facilitate system collaboration, working with local providers to manage urgent demand and help address workload challenges.</p> <p>These actions, listed further below within this document, will support both practical, rapid improvements for practices, as well as help the NHS move closer to NHSE’s vision for integrated primary care. Dr Claire Fuller’s Next Steps for Integrating Primary Care outlines NHSE’s ambition for driving towards integrated neighbourhood teams (INTs) that move beyond PCNs as a fundamental building block of an integrated care system (ICS).</p>	<p>Supporting general practice, primary care networks and their teams through winter and beyond (PR1998 – 26/09/2022)</p>

An ICB framework for supporting general practice

Overview	Letter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This framework will support ICS teams to rapidly assess the needs of their practices/PCNs, building on local knowledge, and identify the practical and supportive interventions that would be most appropriate in the short term to boost resilience and patient access.	Supporting general practice, primary care networks and their teams through winter and beyond (PR1998 – 26/09/2022)
<p>*For further information, please see the letter in the guidance link above, right – pages 1 and 2.</p>	

Immediate changes to the Network Contract DES

Immediate changes to the Network Contract DES	Letter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following on from lessons learned through last winter and the pandemic to support practice capacity and PCN development, the following changes are being made, which are set out in more detail in annex 4 (pages 9 to 12 in the letter in the link on the right): ● Issuing a variation to the Network Contract DES to make several changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Introducing further flexibility into the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme. B) Retiring or deferring to 2023/24 four investment and impact fund (IIF) indicators, worth £37m, and allocating this funding to PCNs. C) Reducing the thresholds of two IIF indicators and changing the definition of a further two IIF indicators to make them easier to achieve. D) Removing the personalized care requirement for all clinical staff to undertake the Personalised Care Institute’s e-learning refresher training for shared decision making (SDM) conversations. E) Making changes to the anticipatory care requirements to support PCN capacity over the winter. 	<p style="text-align: center;"> Supporting general practice, primary care networks and their teams through winter and beyond (PR1998 – 26/09/2022) </p>
<p>*For further information, please see the letter in the guidance link above, right – pages 2 and 3.</p>	

Reducing bureaucracy and primary/secondary care interface

Reducing bureaucracy and primary/secondary care interface	Letter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">As part of the public commitment made in Update to the GP Contract Agreement, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England have worked to jointly identify areas to reduce workload in primary care. <p>On 23 August 2022, DHSC published the Bureaucracy Busting Concordat, with seven principles to reduce unnecessary burdens on general practice. NHSE now plan to go further. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) has been commissioned to identify actionable insights during the next three months where closer clinical collaboration at the interface would have most impact in managing upcoming winter pressures and beyond.</p>	<p>Supporting general practice, primary care networks and their teams through winter and beyond (PR1998 – 26/09/2022)</p>
<p>*For further information, please see the letter in the guidance link above, right – page 3.</p>	

Annexes

Annexes	Letter
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The annexes in the letter in the link on the right, sets out the detail of different initiatives and the requirements from systems, PCNs and practices to access the support being made available. <p>Annex 1 – ICB framework for supporting general practice – pages 4 to 7</p> <p>Annex 2 – SDF for primary care – pages 7 and 8</p> <p>Annex 3 – Scoping for use of any additional capital funding for primary care – page 8</p> <p>Annex 4 – Further support for general practice and PCNs during winter 2022/23 including updates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ARRS – pages 9 and 10PCN service specifications – pages 10 and 11IIF Incentives – pages 11 and 12	<p>Supporting general practice, primary care networks and their teams through winter and beyond (PR1998 – 26/09/2022)</p>



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