

To all Sussex practices

17th March 2020

Dear Colleagues

Locally Commissioned Services and Incentive Schemes: East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove

I am writing to advise all practices that the Sussex CCGs have agreed that the LCS and Local Incentive Schemes commissioned by Sussex CCGs will be held in abeyance, with practice payments continuing at historic levels, from April 2020. You will have received a letter confirming these arrangements from Wendy Carberry [Executive Director of Primary Care] and I enclose a copy of this. Arrangements will be agreed for LCS and Incentive Schemes for which there is no historic data, or for exceptional circumstances, for example where practices have merged.

These details will be provided to all practices over the next few weeks.

It is clear that General Practice, and the NHS as a whole, is entering a period of exceptional challenge and this local decision is designed to reassure practices in terms of their financial stability whilst they focus on delivering essential patient care. There may be elements of currently commissioned LCS clinical services that will still need to be delivered as part of normal, appropriate patient care, and these should continue, but practices will not need to claim for these services.

The LMC has received numerous enquiries about national decisions on QOF, DESs [particularly implementation of the PCN DES] and GP appraisals; all of these require national decisions which NHS England is being pressed to make. I have been able to write to all practices this morning to confirm routine CQC Inspections [including the Annual Regulatory Return by telephone] are cancelled from yesterday [16th March 2020]. As soon as information is available, I will write to practices.

Within Sussex the LMC would ask all practices to:

- Review and update your current Business Continuity Plan [BCP]
- Make contact with your 'buddy practice' as noted in your BCP
- Consider carefully how your practice would manage with fewer staff, and how to maximise the opportunity for remote/home working by staff members
- Ensure your MHRA CAS email is monitored


Local Medical Committees for
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The LMC is aware there are still many evolving difficulties as the NHS seeks to adapt to delivering safe patient care at a time of unprecedented demand and consequent professional and personal challenges; not all of these have been satisfactorily met [such as PPE provision in General Practice] and current services are struggling to keep pace with the demands being placed upon them. Providing essential patient medical care is the priority, and this will fundamentally be a different service than prior to the onset of the pandemic, and perhaps than expected by patients. This will require GPs and Practice Managers to provide leadership within their practices; the LMC will remain a source of continuing advice and support throughout this period.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive

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