



**To: General Practitioners and General Practice staff  
CCGs  
Heads of Primary Care**

**Date: 4 September 2020**

**Changes to the GMS contract for 2020/21**

Dear Colleagues

Further to the commitments made in [our letter dated 9 July 2020](#) we would like to update you on the arrangements for both the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) for the remainder of 2020/21 and the Dispensary Services Quality Scheme (DSQS) which was reinstated from 1 August 2020 as previously announced

### **Quality and Outcomes Framework**

Today we have published revised QOF guidance which details the requirements for 2020/21. This includes detail of the following:

- The points and payment changes for the four flu vaccination and two cervical screening indicators;
- The indicators which will continue to be paid on a conditional basis;
- The refocused requirements for the Quality Improvement domain support the restoration of key services to people with a learning disability and early cancer diagnosis;
- The indicators which will be subject to income protection arrangements and the conditions upon this income protection.

This guidance is effective immediately and the Statement of Financial Entitlement will be amended shortly to reflect this.

### **Dispensary Services Quality Scheme (DSQS)**

We have previously confirmed that the DSQS would be reinstated from 1 August 2020, and that dispensing practices wishing to participate in the Scheme this year would need to inform their commissioner. We also advised income protection arrangements would be in place for the period between 1 April 2020 and 31 July 2020.

Following further discussions with the British Medical Association (BMA), we have revised the Scheme's requirement in relation to patient medication reviews this year.

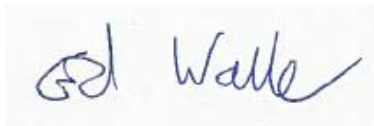
The Scheme normally requires dispensing practices to undertake medication reviews for at least 10% of their dispensing patients. This requirement has been reduced to a minimum of 7.5% this year in light of the current circumstances. Practices are asked to prioritise patients who they consider to be higher-risk or would benefit most from a review. Practices will also be able to undertake these reviews remotely if they so

wish and it is clinically appropriate. The Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) will be amended shortly to reflect this.

The other requirements of DSQS remain the same – please refer to the [SFE](#) for further details

Commissioners are expected to take a supportive approach to DSQS given the current circumstances. This includes taking a proportionate approach to the requirement for practices to partake in one clinical audit of dispensing services, and have due regard to the impact of Covid-19 on practices' training plans.

Kind regards

Handwritten signature of Ed Waller in blue ink.

Ed Waller  
Director, Primary Care Strategy  
and NHS Contracts  
NHS England and NHS Improvement

Handwritten signature of Dr Nikita Kanani in black ink.

Dr Nikita Kanani  
Medical Director for Primary Care  
NHS England and NHS Improvement