

Network Contract – Directed Enhanced Service – Schedule 1

GPDF is aware that the available information on Primary Care Networks contains many gaps and raises important questions about a network's structure, taxation, finance and employment of staff. GPDF will be providing guidance to LMCs on these issues.

The immediate action for all Primary Care Networks (PCNs) is to submit certain initial information by 15 May 2019. That involves completion and submission of Annex A to the Network Contract DES Contract Specification 2019/20, which is the registration form that requires the following:

- PCN members and ODS codes
- PCN list size
- Name of Clinical Director
- Details of the PCN's nominated payee
- Map of Network Area
- The attachment of the initial Network Agreement.

Only Schedule 1 to the Network Agreement and the member practice details at the front of that agreement need to be populated by 15 May 2019. Further, certain Schedule 1 content need not be set out at this stage. Specifically, the governance structures for meetings and decision-making and the method of the Clinical Director's appointment can be omitted (although their identity is now required). Therefore, the Schedule 1 content required now does not go beyond the information already set out in the Annex A registration form. It is not yet necessary to determine the structure and staffing arrangements for the PCN. It is also not necessary to set out its financial plans, other than naming the nominated payee for funding.

Apart from the geographical area, all matters listed by 15 May can be changed as a PCN's plans and aims become clearer. Indeed, having fully considered some of the questions raised below, it is possible that a PCN will want to alter a proposed arrangement. A PCN's organisational structure will not be defined by what is stated now.

The guidance from the GPDF will cover:

- Completing the Network Agreement and its Schedules;
- Structural options for a PCN including the implications on:
 - Legal structure
 - Governance / internal arrangements
 - Accounting
 - VAT
 - Staffing and pensions
 - Contracts (and sub-contracting)
 - Data sharing
 - Engagement of the Clinical Director

GPDF will also be producing FAQs and an email address to which additional enquiries can be posted.