

**From:** Bert Jindal Bert.Jindal@gp-B85042.nhs.uk  
**Subject:** FW: Special Edition GP and Practice Team bulletin  
**Date:** 7 December 2016 17:01

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BJ

As agreed at the November LMC meeting, please find the NHSE special edition of the GP and practice team bulletin for November.

**From:** NHS England [mailto:bulletins@england.nhs.uk]  
**Sent:** 25 November 2016 16:20  
**To:** Bert Jindal  
**Subject:** Special Edition GP and Practice Team bulletin

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# Special Edition GP and Practice Team bulletin



Date 25 November 2016

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## General Practice Forward View

### Six month special

In April 2016, NHS England launched the [General Practice Forward View \(GPFV\)](#) - a plan to stabilise and transform general practice backed by a multi-billion pound investment to start to redress historic underinvestment. It clearly stated that if general practice fails, the NHS fails, recognising the increasing pressure that general practice is under every day.

NHS England has been working with [Health Education England \(HEE\)](#), the [Royal College of General Practitioners \(RCGP\)](#) and the [British Medical Association \(BMA\)](#) along with many others to turn words into reality. We wanted to update you on how this investment is reaching the frontline and how you can access the support on offer. NHS England also wanted to reaffirm our commitment to deliver against what was set out in the GPFV over the coming months and years.

Finally we want to thank you for the work that you have done in helping to deliver the GPFV and for all that you do.

## Workload

### NHS GP Health Service

A new [NHS GP Health Service](#) will launch from January 2017 to support GPs and trainee GPs who may be suffering from mental ill-health including stress, depression, addiction and burnout. There will be a national helpline coordinating assessment and treatment services available across England.

### Improving how general practice and hospitals work together

The [2017/18 and 2018/19 NHS Standard Contract](#) has been changed to improve the interaction between practices and local hospitals. This includes strengthened requirements on hospitals for handling queries from GPs and patients and ensuring that shared care protocols are only initiated where the patient's GP is content to accept the transfer of responsibility.

## Funding resilience in general practice

The General Practice Resilience Programme is £40 million of investment over four years and provides a wide [menu of support for GP practices across the country](#). The first wave of money (£16 million) has been allocated to local NHS England teams to fund support this year (2016/17) with over 1,000 practices having been selected for support. This is in addition to the £10 million investment committed in December 2015 to support practices identified as in difficulty. If practices want more information about accessing support, please contact your [local resilience lead](#).

## Workforce

### Returning and Retained GPs Scheme

The [Targeted Investment in Recruiting Returning Doctors Scheme](#) is a pilot that invests resources in GP practices which have historically encountered difficulties with recruitment. GPs can access up to £10,000 to support them with relocation and training, and practices will be supported by up to £2,000 for locum cover while the new GP is undertaking training.

The [Retained Doctors Scheme](#) has increased reimbursement for practices employing a retained GP and annual payment towards professional expenses for GPs. Practices employing a GP in this scheme will receive more per session per week than previously. Payment towards professional expenses will increase depending on the number of weekly sessions worked.

NHS England has also announced a £20,000 salary supplement to attract GP trainees to work in areas of the country where GP training places have been unfilled for a number of years. Over 95 per cent of training places were filled in 2016/17.

### Clinical Pharmacy

The first phase of the [Clinical Pharmacy pilot scheme](#) was launched in July 2015, and to date there are 491 pharmacists working in 658 practices. Clinical pharmacists work as part of multidisciplinary team in a patient facing role, clinically assessing and treating patients. Every practice will have the opportunity to benefit and will be able to apply to take part in the second pilot scheme early next year this will be supported by an additional £112 million.

### Induction and Refresher Scheme

We've made more improvements to the [GP Induction and Refresher Scheme](#), which supports GPs to return to practice after a NHS career break of more than 2 years whilst, raising a family or time spent working abroad. It also supports the safe introduction of overseas GPs who have qualified outside the UK and have no previous NHS experience. There's now more financial support with help towards indemnity costs and other fees worth £1,714, as well as a monthly placement bursary of up to £3,500. A [Portfolio route](#) was also introduced, allowing GPs to show that they have maintained their GP skills while working as a GP overseas and how they have kept up to date with changes in NHS practice.

## Infrastructure

### Investment in Estates and Technology

Through the [Estates and Technology Transformation Fund](#), a multi-million pound, multi-year investment in primary care premises and technology across England, 575 investment schemes for practices were completed in 2015/16 with a further 316 under construction or in the process of due diligence. Over 800 schemes are now identified for the 2016 to 2019 investment pipeline, subject to due diligence and approval.

### Financial support for premises

Measures to support practices with undocumented tenancies have been [agreed with NHS Property Services \(NHSPS\) and Community health partnerships \(CHP\)](#). These include: making Stamp Duty Land Tax reimbursable for the initial term (up to 15 years); making premises legal fees reimbursable to a maximum of £1,000 (plus VAT); availability of a subsidy on NHSPS and CHP service charge costs increases; and reimbursement of VAT on the rent for the duration of the lease when charged by NHSPS or CHP.

## Investment

### Indemnity Support Scheme

We have invested £30 million into the GP contract in recognition of the impact of indemnity in primary care starting in the 2016/17 financial year. This year, we are introducing a new [GP indemnity support scheme](#) which

Starting in the 2016/17 financial year. This year, we are introducing a new [GP indemnity support scheme](#) which will provide a special payment to practices to cover the inflation in indemnity costs. It will initially run for two years, when it will be reviewed. The first payment, which will be made through the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE), will be made in April 2017.

NHS England is also running a [winter indemnity scheme](#) to support GPs who are able to carry out additional sessions in out of hours or unscheduled care services to address winter pressures. Further work is underway with CCGs to look at the specific issues arising from out of hours/unscheduled care to identify longer term solutions.

### Increasing capacity funding

On top of planned increases to primary medical care allocations for general practice, there is further [local recurrent funding to improve and increase capacity in general practice](#), totalling £138 million by 2017/18 and increasing to £258 million by 2018/19. This will mean a minimum additional £6 per head to improve access to general practice.

## Care redesign

### Multispecialty Community Provider (MCP) Framework

The [MCP emerging care model and contract framework](#) describes what being an MCP means, by assembling the core features from the 14 MCP vanguards into a common framework. The document includes proposals for how the new voluntary MCP contract and associated policy framework will work. The draft contract and package of supporting documents, including details on GP participation in an MCP, will be published shortly.

### Training and development funding

The first phase of a £30 million national development to support GP practices with [training and development](#) has launched. It will support practices in managing their workload differently, freeing up time for GPs and improving care for patients. CCGs have also been allocated £5 million to support Reception and Clerical training. In addition, regional networking events for practice managers will be held in December 2016 as part of the [Practice Manager Development Programme](#). A [survey for practice managers](#) to understand what their development needs are, is open for feedback until 23 December 2016.

### Improving access to general practice

NHS England is delivering the national mandate commitment “to ensure everyone has easier and more convenient access to GP services, including appointments at evening and weekends”. The [NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance 2017-2019](#), published in October 2016, provides more details on the trajectory and requirements for improving access.

## Important changes to the GP and Practice Team bulletin

Over the coming months, we will be looking to update the GP and Practice Team bulletin in order to ensure you receive the most relevant and up-to-date information about general practice from NHS England. If you already receive NHS England’s GP and Practice Team bulletin, please [re-register](#) and ask those that would like to receive the bulletin in the future to [subscribe](#). If you do not register by 31 January 2017, your details will be taken off the database and you will no longer receive this bulletin.

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