

Classification: Official

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

To: NHSEI Regional Directors of Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning
NHSEI Regional Directors of Commissioning
CCG Accountable Officers

21 December 2020

Dear colleagues,

RE: Arrangements for the vaccination of registered patients of non-participating practices and care home residents/staff where the lead PCN is not signed up to the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme 2020/21 Enhanced Service (ES) or is signed up but not yet mobilised.

This letter sets out further information on the contractual options and processes that can be deployed to support vaccination:

- of the registered patients of non-participating practices;
- across all care homes, even if the lead PCN grouping for the care home has not signed up via its member practices to the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme 2020/21 Enhanced Service or is signed up but has not yet mobilised to commence vaccination.

Registered patients of non-participating practices

We have received queries from LMCs, Regions and CCGs about what to do where there are practices who have chosen not to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme 2020/21 Enhanced Service (ES).

We have provided within the Enhanced Service specification for PCN groupings to vaccinate eligible patients registered with non-participating practices. We expect this to occur on agreement with the commissioner. In these circumstances, we would advise there are broadly two options:

Scenario 1 - There is a practice that has not signed up to the ES but there is local agreement with a PCN grouping (through the PCN Grouping Host) that they will vaccinate that non-participating practice's eligible patients

It is necessary for three things to happen:

- a) There is agreement in writing (note this is not a new contract but should be a variation to the existing core GMS/PMS/APMS contract) between the commissioner (NHSE) and the PCN Grouping Host that the PCN Grouping will deliver the vaccinations to eligible Patients on the non-participating primary medical services practice's list of registered patients, under the terms of the ES and their GMS/PMS/APMS contract. The payments will not go to the non-participating practice. They will instead be claimed by the lead practice nominated by the PCN Grouping to receive COVID vaccination payments on its behalf and will be allocated as determined by the PCN Grouping.
- b) The commissioner (NHSE) writes to the non-participating practice advising them of the general co-operation duties under their core GMS/PMS/APMS contract and they are expected to advise patients when asked, as to where they can access vaccination. A template letter is attached.
- c) The commissioner (NHSE) will also write directly to the practice's patient list advising them of where they can access vaccination once they become eligible.

Scenario 2 – There is a practice that has not signed up to the ES and there is no local agreement yet as to who will vaccinate that non-participating practice's eligible patients

In this scenario:

- a) The commissioner (NHSE) will look to put in place a local contract with non-GP providers e.g. community pharmacy where there are no willing PCN groupings locally. Again, payments in respect of the Covid-19 vaccinations will not go to the non-participating practice on whose list the patients are registered, but they will instead be claimed by the locally contracted provider who vaccinates the eligible patients.
- b) The commissioner (NHSE) writes to the non-participating practice advising them of the general co-operation duties under their core GMS/PMS/APMS contract and they are expected to advise patients when asked, as to where they can access vaccination. A template letter is attached.
- c) The commissioner (NHSE) will also write directly to the practice's patient list advising them of where they can access vaccination (or the non-participating practices could do this if they agree).

Care home vaccinations

Further to the 18 December 2020 letter from Dr Nikita Kanani and Ed Waller, you will be aware that a successful supervised walk through of the care home vaccination

model was undertaken last week and that we will commence the wider roll out to care home residents and their staff, starting with larger care homes from week commencing 21 December 2020. Given these residents and staff are the top priority for vaccination but there are still a number of PCN sites still to mobilise, we would ask that regional teams put in place arrangements wherever possible to offer vaccination to all care home residents in large care homes (with over 50 beds) generally by the end of the calendar year.

Below is further advice as to the contractual options available locally to support the vaccination of care home residents and staff.

Scenario 3 – The PCN with responsibility for the care home is not signed up (via its member practices) to the ES

In this scenario, it is recommended that the commissioner (NHSE) agrees with another PCN grouping (through the PCN Grouping Host) that they will vaccinate the care home residents and staff under the ES. It would be strongly advisable/necessary for three things to happen:

- a) There is agreement in writing (note this is not a new contract but should be a variation to the existing core GMS/PMS/APMS contract) between the commissioner (NHSE) and the PCN Grouping Host that that practice, through the PCN Grouping will deliver the vaccinations to the care home residents and staff under the terms of the ES and their GMS/PMS/APMS contract. Payment will be claimed by the lead practice nominated by the PCN Grouping undertaking the care home vaccinations to receive COVID-19 vaccination payments on its behalf and will be allocated as determined by the PCN Grouping. The PCN grouping should administer both doses of the vaccination.
- b) The commissioner writes to the care home advising them of the PCN grouping that will vaccinate the care home's residents and staff.
- c) The commissioner (NHSE) writes to the practices within the non-participating PCN to advise them of the general co-operation duties under their contract. A template letter is attached.

It may be possible for the GP practices making up the PCN Grouping to sub-contract the delivery of the vaccinations to another practice outside of the PCN Grouping. This should be considered very carefully and all contractual requirements must be complied with alongside the provisions of the ES.

Scenario 4 – the lead PCN grouping for the care home has signed up (via its member practices) to the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme 2020/21 Enhanced Service but will not mobilised to commence vaccination.

For the purposes of this letter, 'lead PCN grouping for the care home' means the PCN grouping incorporating the PCN which is responsible for delivery of Enhanced Health in Care Homes provisions in the Network Contract DES.

In this scenario, there are two possible options:

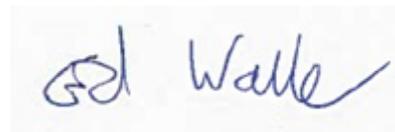
- i. *The GP practices of the lead PCN grouping for the care home enters into an agreement with the GP Practices of another PCN grouping that is already mobilised for the purposes of collaborating to deliver the vaccinations to the care home residents and staff*
 - The Collaboration Agreement of the already mobilised PCN Grouping would need to be amended to include the GP practices of the lead PCN Grouping, only for the purposes of the care home residents and staff vaccinations.
 - The arrangement would need to apply to both the first and second dose of the vaccine.

- ii. *It may be possible for the lead PCN grouping for the care home to subcontract delivery of vaccinations to its care home residents and staff to another PCN Grouping that is already mobilised and delivering vaccinations.*
 - The lead PCN grouping would receive payment (to the lead practice nominated by the PCN Grouping to receive COVID-19 vaccination payments on its behalf) for care home residents and staff vaccinations and would pay the PCN Grouping which administered the vaccinations under the terms of the subcontracting arrangement.
 - The sub-contracting arrangement would need to apply to the administration of both the first and second dose due to the fact that the second dose is automatically delivered to the same designated site.

Yours sincerely,



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



Ed Waller
Director of Primary Care
NHS England and NHS Improvement