

# Costing methodology for GMS practice payments during an influenza pandemic

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A part of the NHS Confederation  
working on behalf of the 

## Introduction

1. The key principle is to ensure that GP practices are not disadvantaged financially by their involvement in responding to an influenza pandemic, in line with national pandemic flu frameworks.
2. This paper accompanies the NHS Employers and General Practitioners Committee's *Principles for GMS practice payments during an influenza pandemic* and sets out the methodology to be applied to the calculation of General Medical Services (GMS) payments during an influenza pandemic.

## Underlying principles

3. Primary care organisations (PCOs) are expected to ensure that in return for making the practice resources available to the PCO in the delivery of local flu related services, the gross monthly sums payable to a practice will mirror the payments made in the previous year, plus adjustments for Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) awards. This agreement does not extend to local contracts, however we would recommend to the Departments of Health that they issue instructions to PCOs to enter into similar arrangements with local contractors.

## GMS payments covered under this agreement

4. Payment to GMS practices consists of both national and local elements. This agreement sets out the procedures to be applied to the calculation of the national elements. PCOs must make separate provision for local payments based upon the principles outlined in the NHS Employers and General Practitioners Committee's *Principles for GMS practice payments during an influenza pandemic*.
5. Therefore this methodology will apply to the following nationally calculated payment streams:
  - a. Global Sum
  - b. Quality and Outcomes Framework
  - c. Directed Enhanced Services
6. It will not apply to payments made in respect of Local Enhanced Services and any other locally negotiated payments.
7. Payments made in respect of a practitioner's status e.g. seniority, should continue at pre-pandemic levels except where the practitioner attains a seniority anniversary when the payments must increase. It is accepted that this will be undertaken in arrears because of staffing levels in finance sections.

## Eligibility for income to be protected under this agreement

8. To be eligible for the income protection offered to practices under this agreement they must be:
  - a. Actively participating in the national and PCO response to the pandemic, or have made their resources available to the PCO.
  - b. Actively supporting their staff in line with any recommendations for good practice within general practice which may be agreed at a national level.

## Initiation and duration of this agreement

9. This agreement will be initiated at the outset of a flu pandemic. It will continue in place until the end of the recovery period.

## Calculating GMS payments under this agreement

### **Global Sum**

10. Global sum payments will continue throughout the period defined above at the rate paid in the month which the pandemic is confirmed.
11. During this period, global sum payments will not be adjusted for changes in registered population size.

### **Quality and Outcomes Framework payments**

12. The monthly aspiration payments will continue to be paid at the same level.
13. Where a pandemic period includes the 31 March, all practices will be credited with the same level of achievement and therefore income (subject to any pre-agreed uplift) as the previous year i.e. they will be credited with the same achievement payment as the previous year. This enshrines the principle outlined in paragraph 3 i.e. the final achievement payment will be of the same cash value as the previous year (plus any adjustments for DDRB uplift) irrespective of whether there have been changes in either point achievements or the practice Adjusted Disease Prevalence Factor.

### **Directed Enhanced Services payments**

14. Where a pandemic period includes the 31<sup>st</sup> March, all practices will be credited with the same level of achievement as the previous year and balancing payments made accordingly.

## End of the pandemic period

15. At the conclusion of the pandemic attack and recovery periods, all payments to GMS practices will revert to the calculation methods outlined in the ordinary Statement of Financial Entitlements for that year.
16. This enshrines the principle outlined in paragraph 3.

## NHS Employers

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