

Community Based Services - FAQ

Why are these services being commissioned as Community Based Services through the NHS Standard Contract?

As part of the transition over the last 18 months, NHS England published guidance that states that NHS England is the only organisation that can commission enhanced services. CCGs can commission local services but this is as Community Based Services through the NHS Standard Contract.

Why are the service specifications different to those issued previously for Enhanced Services?

The CCG has to commission Community Based Services through the NHS Standard Contract. As a result of this, the CCG has had to use the Service Specification format that is defined in the NHS Standard Contract. For further details on how the new service specification for community based services compares to those issued previously, please refer to the document below:-

The terminology in the service specifications differs to that which was used in the service specifications issued for Enhanced Services. Why is this?

The service specifications have been reviewed and updated to include reference to current national or local guidance or requirements. In addition to this terminology, there has been an update to reflect the NHS Standard Contract and the technical guidance as a commissioner. The CCG has to ensure that correct contract terminology is used e.g. “service user” rather than “patient”.

Why do we need to submit an Invoice?

As part of the NHS Standard Contract the requirement is that an invoice has to be submitted to be entitled for payment. To help support this WL CCG will be creating an excel document based on the current claim form which will then populate a front worksheet which will be the invoice.

How will the CCG process payments?

The CCG will review all invoices submitted and review the information provided against the monitoring information provided. The CCG finance team will then create a payment file which they will send to SBS for payment. Practices will receive remittance advice that will provide details of each service paid for (please note this will not be a LD reference as is current practice). In addition to this we will provide you with contact details for any finance related queries

Why is there a Quality Schedule?

Quality Schedules are a requirement of the NHS Standard Contract and a number of these are classed as mandated standards which cannot be amended by the commissioner. However, we as a commissioner only have to include those quality standards which are applicable to the service and provider being commissioned. Taking this into consideration WL CCG as a commissioner has been able to streamline the quality schedule and include a range of local quality standards which are most relevant to the practices.

What is involved in the mobilisation phase (providers to mobilise services)?

When we refer to providers preparing to mobilise the services they will be delivering, the expectation is that the provider would be ready to deliver these services from the contract start date of the 1st April 2014. From the providers point of view this will involve them ensuring they have the necessary trained staff in place, any equipment required to deliver the service and that all policies and procedures required are in place (this shouldn't be too much of a problem if you have provided these services previously).