

2017 No. 03

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (WALES) ACT 2006

Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements (Relaxation of Quality and Outcomes Framework) Directions 2017

Made - - - - 02 February 2017

Having effect in accordance with direction 1(2)

The Welsh Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 45, 203(9) and (10) and 204(1) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006⁽¹⁾, and after consulting in accordance with section 45(4) of that Act with the bodies appearing to them to be representative of persons to whose remuneration these Directions relate, give the following Directions:

Title and application

- 1.—(1) The title of these Directions is the Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements (Relaxation of Quality and Outcomes Framework) Directions 2017.
- (2) These Directions are made on 02 February 2017 but have effect from 19 January 2017.
- (3) These Directions are given to Local Health Boards in Wales. They relate to the payments to be made by Local Health Boards to a contractor under a general medical services contract.
- (4) These Directions set out the mechanism for measuring the Achievement Payments in respect of the period commencing 1 April 2016 and ending on 31 March 2017.

Interpretation and introduction

2. In these Directions—
 - (a) “the 2013 Directions” means the Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2013⁽²⁾ as amended by the directions listed in Schedule 1 Annex J to those Directions;
 - (b) unless the context otherwise requires, the words and expressions bear the meaning they bear in the 2013 Directions.
3. Achievement Payments are payments made by a Local Health Board (“LHB”) to a contractor under a GMS contract. They are based on the total number of points a contractor achieves under the Quality and Outcomes Framework (“QOF”).
4. The mechanism for measuring Achievement Payments is set out in Part 2 of, and Annexes D and F to, the Statement of Financial Entitlements attached to the 2013 Directions.

(1) The National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (c.42).

(2) The Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements 2013 (2013 No.8) as amended.

5. These Directions enable a contractor to discontinue participation in certain aspects of QOF from 19 January 2017 and set out how the LHB must calculate an Achievement Payment. They apply to payments for the financial year ending on 31st March 2017.

6. A contractor may opt to discontinue in participation in all aspects of the QOF except for those mentioned in direction 10.

7. Where a contractor has opted to discontinue participation in a QOF indicator, the contractor is entitled to the number of points earned for the indicator so far this year, but, where the contractor earned a greater number of points in the year 2015 to 2016 they are entitled to a payment based on the higher points. The contractor is, therefore, entitled to the greatest number of points per indicator having compared the points earned for the financial year ending on 31st March 2017 and on 31st March 2016.

Discontinuing participation in QOF

8.—(1) Subject to direction 10, a contractor may opt to discontinue participation in QOF indicators for the financial year ending on 31st March 2017 for the purpose of providing resource to address the needs of patients during a period of increased demand.

(2) A contractor may opt to continue participating in some indicators but discontinue participation in others.

(3) A contractor who opts to discontinue participation in one or more QOF indicators must notify the LHB by 1st March 2017.

(4) Where a contractor has opted to discontinue participation in a QOF indicator, in calculating an Achievement Payment in respect of the financial year ending on 31st March 2017 the LHB must apply the 2013 Directions subject to the following provisions.

Alternative calculation of points for the financial year ending on 31st March 2017

9.—(1) For each indicator discontinued by a contractor, the LHB must compare the number of points earned—

(a) in the financial year ending on 31 March 2017; and

(b) in the financial year ending on 31 March 2016.

(2) The contractor is entitled to the greatest number of points for that indicator (whether that be the points earned under paragraph (a) or (b) above).

Excepted indicators

10.—(1) Direction 8 does not apply to the indicators listed below (“excepted indicators”)—

(a) in the clinical domain, the influenza immunisation indicators (FLU001W and FLU002W).

(b) in the cluster network domain—

(i) the practice development plan (CND001W);

(ii) the cluster network action plan (CND002W);

(iii) implementation and delivery of the GP cluster network action plan (CND003W);

(iv) the cluster network annual report (CND004W); and

(v) clinical governance (CND005W);

(c) any other indicator that the contractor has opted to continue.

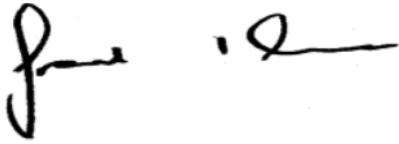
(2) The part of the Achievement Payment for the excepted indicators is to be calculated on the basis of the number of points actually earned in respect of the year ending on 31 March 2017, calculated in accordance with the 2013 Directions.

Achievement Payment for the financial year ending on 31st March 2017

11. The contractor’s Achievement Payment is to be calculated in accordance with section 4 and 6 of the 2013 Directions on the basis of—

- (a) the points arrived at for each indicator under direction 9; and
- (b) the points achieved for each excepted indicator under direction 10.

Signed by Dr Grant L. Duncan, Deputy Director, Healthcare Policy Division under the authority of the Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant L. Duncan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Date: 02 February 2017