

To all GPs in Scotland

General Practitioners

28 May 2014

Dear Colleague

GP contract uplift for 2014/15

I am writing to you to explain how the contract will be uplifted for 2014/15. Alex Neil, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing announced at the Scottish Local Medical Committees Conference on 14 March 2014 that the 2014/015 DDRB recommendation would be implemented in full and that approximately £4 million of additional funding would be invested beyond what was required to deliver the DDRB recommendation. The Scottish Government has now confirmed how the uplift will be applied and I wanted to take this opportunity to explain how this will impact practices in Scotland.

GMS practices

- The DDRB recommended uplift of 0.28% (calculated on the total value of the contract across Scotland, which equates to £1.8 million) will be delivered to all practices by way of the Global Sum Equivalent. This portion of the uplift will be received by all practices and will not be subject to recycling against correction factor.
- An additional £4.2 million will be paid into the Global Sum and will be recycled against the MPIG/correction factor using the same process as in previous years. The process of recycling the uplift will reduce the size of all existing correction factors and will mean that approximately 91 practices will no longer have one.
- In a separate process to the £6 million outlined above, and because of the arrangements agreed between SGPC and SG in 2008, an additional £2.2 million will be delivered to GMS practices for population increase.

Section 17c practices:

- The Scottish Government has confirmed that sufficient funding will be delivered to NHS boards to cover contract uplifts for section 17C practices.
- Section 17c practices should approach their NHS board to discuss how the uplift will be applied as this is not subject to national negotiations and a contractual uplift may not be applied automatically.
- The Scottish Government expects that NHS boards will apply the uplift for population increase automatically to Section 17C practices.

Scottish Secretary: Jill Vickerman



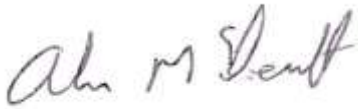
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I appreciate that practices with a correction factor that do not receive (or receive a reduced portion of) the additional uplift will be disappointed not to receive more. However, this is additional funding that goes beyond the requirement of the DDRB recommendation, is in line with processes used in previous years to deliver contract uplifts, and is consistent with the Scottish Government's desire to reduce practice reliance on correction factor.

I believe it is important to recognise that the GP contract in Scotland is receiving a larger contractual uplift than recommended by the DDRB. While this will certainly not solve the considerable challenges facing general practice in Scotland, including unsustainable workload and recruitment and retention difficulties, it is a step in the right direction. Given our recent negotiated agreement for the contract in 2014/15 and this additional uplift we are hopeful that our ongoing discussions and negotiations with the Scottish Government will deliver a more stable and manageable contract for practices.

During our roadshows on the contract agreement for 2014/15 we asked for suggestions on what would improve your working life as a GP to help inform ongoing discussions on the GMS contract. If you would like to contribute we would be grateful to receive your views via info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk (which has been created especially for this purpose).

Yours sincerely



Alan McDevitt
Chairman
Scottish General Practice Committee