

Directorate for Community Health and Social Care
Primary Care Division

Enquiries: Laura.Cregan@gov.scot



**To: NHS Directors of Finance
Integration Authority CFOs.**

**Copy: Primary Care Leads
Chair of SGPC**

7 APRIL 2020

Dear colleagues,

GP PRACTICES – ADDITIONAL FUNDING - COVID-19

The Scottish Government recognises the immense pressures on general practice caused by Covid-19 and that responding promptly and effectively to the outbreak will necessitate additional expenditure by GPs. In support of local efforts, please be advised that the Scottish Government will meet in full any appropriately evidenced and necessary Covid-19 related additional costs incurred by GPs.

We recognise that some costs have been incurred and others will arise in the coming months. Directions and associated guidance on the purpose of the funding and reporting mechanisms will be issued in due course. In the meantime, a brief guide to recording and reporting expenditure is attached at Annex A.

To enable GPs to proceed without delay, an initial sum of £15 million will be allocated to NHS Boards for sharing among practices for the period from 1 April 2020. The smallest practices will each receive £4,000 and the remainder of the sum will be distributed by the Scottish Workload Formula to all other practices for an average allocation of £16,000 per practice. These payments will be made by PSD on account and practices should expect the funds to reach them in early April 2020.

Dispensing practices will receive an estimated payment in April (February dispensing) based on three times the number of prescriptions submitted for pricing and the average payments per prescription for December 2019.

We anticipate that the total costs to general practice of responding to the Covid-19 emergency will be more than this initial allocation. We intend to make further additional payments at the end of April, in early May and at the beginning of subsequent months while the emergency lasts. NHS Boards will receive corresponding funding allocations. This will be subject to review, taking into

consideration the scale of the additional demand for general medical services and the support provided by general practice to the wider NHS. We will also undertake an exercise to collect data on any expenditure incurred during March 2020 in order that we can reimburse this retrospectively.

I hope that this will provide some reassurance of the Scottish Government's commitment to supporting general practice in what may be our biggest health challenge yet.

Should you have any queries, please email Laura.Cregan@gov.scot in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Hinze

Deputy Director and Acting Head of Primary Care

Annex A

Covid-19 Additional Funding to Practices – Guidance

Reporting requirements

A condition of this funding is that practices must fully participate in responding to Covid-19 as outlined in national guidance and particularly [https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020\(M\)02.pdf](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2020(M)02.pdf) . It is understood that some practices will have capacity challenges and that service provision may be reduced in a planned manner for periods.

All GP Contractors requiring reimbursement of Covid-19 related expenditure must provide their Health Board with access to management accounts and other relevant records for audit purposes.

All necessary additional expenditure arising from the Covid-19 outbreak should be recorded. Such expenditure should be categorised using the following categories:

- Staff costs:
 - Non-clinical;
 - Clinical:
 - salaried;
 - sessional;
- Equipment, including telephony;
- GP partner costs;

All such expenditure must be appropriately evidenced and the evidence made available for inspection upon request by NSS.

Expenditure must be reported retrospectively to the local Health Board. Practices will be notified of arrangements for reporting and a reporting template will be issued in due course.

The information included in expenditure reports must include as a minimum:

- The date the expenditure was incurred;
- The value of the expenditure, excluding any VAT that is recoverable by the GP Contractor(s);
- The VAT amount, if not recoverable by the GP Contractor;
- A description of the expenditure, including durations and quantities, if applicable;
- The reasons why the costs are additional to business-as-usual expenditure and are appropriate;
- Confirmation that the costs are not recoverable by other means.