



Primary Care Funding Allocation for Pharmacists in GP Practices and Additional Prescription for Excellence Funding.

Summary

1. This circular advises of an allocation of £1.3m from the Primary Care Fund to NHS Boards for 2015-16, following the Scottish Government's announcement of 25 June to fund pharmacists to work with GPs in GP practices. It also advises of a further allocation of funding of £1.2m from the Prescription for Excellence funding stream to compliment the Primary Care Fund allocation.

Background

2. The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport announced on 25 June 2015 details of how the Primary Care Fund will be used to support the primary care workforce, including GPs, and improve patient access to these services.

3. Over the next three years £50m will be invested to address immediate workload and recruitment issues, as well as putting in place long-term, sustainable change within primary care. From this, £16.2m over three years, will be allocated to recruit up to 140 whole time equivalent additional pharmacists with advanced clinical skills training, or those undertaking the training. They will work directly with GP practices to support the care of patients with long term conditions and so free up GP time to spend with other patients. By year 3 all of these pharmacists should be independent prescribers with advanced clinical skills.

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Addresses

For action

Directors of Pharmacy, NHS Boards
Directors of Finance, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards

For information

Director of Pharmacy, NES

Enquiries to:

Louise McCubbin
Pharmacy & Medicines Division
1st Floor East Rear
St Andrew's House
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131 244 6295
email:
Louise.McCubbin@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

www.scotland.gov.uk

Prescription for Excellence (PfE)

4. Prescription for Excellence (PfE) the Government's vision and action plan for NHS pharmaceutical care over the next ten years was published in September 2013. Funding obligations were made of Boards in February 2014 to develop local initiatives to increase clinical capacity within the pharmacist workforce. In addition £1.2m from the PfE funding stream will be distributed to Boards to allow the infrastructure to be put in place to maximise the primary care spend.

5. PfE aims to support the delivery of the Scottish Government's 2020 vision by pharmacists supporting patients to live longer healthier lives at home, or in a homely setting. Previous funding for Boards strengthened existing arrangements for training pharmacists in independent prescribing and clinical skills. Funding was also identified to set up clinical pharmacist led clinics to work with other clinical staff and patients regardless of setting, to help address polypharmacy in patients with multiple morbidities.

Detail

6. Annex A provides a breakdown of the Primary Care funding allocated to Boards for the period August 2015 – March 2016 (year 1). £1.3m has been allocated on an NRAC basis with a de minimis of £30,000. This is to allow recruitment of one whole time equivalent pharmacist in smaller Board areas. Further details will follow in the near future regarding 2016-17 (year 2) and 2017-18 (year 3).

7. Annex A also details a breakdown of the additional £1.2m PfE monies available to Boards in 2015-16 to support the further development of infrastructure to complement the investment from the Primary Care Fund.

8. An independent external review will be undertaken to monitor the introduction of pharmacists in to GP practices, and this evaluation will inform future decisions on support provided.

9. Boards will be expected to recruit, or enter into arrangements with, pharmacists to work directly with GPs over the next three years to deliver direct patient facing care. Over time these pharmacists will be trained to work as Pharmacist Independent Prescribers in line with the vision discussed in PfE, managing caseloads and delivering patient facing care. Provision of pharmacist expertise on this scale will have a resource releasing effect on GPs who will be able to focus on alternative clinical areas.

10. Boards will be expected to target resources towards priority areas at a local level based on patient need. Priority populations to be targeted include areas with a greater proportion of elderly patients, deprived areas, and patients with multiple morbidities who receive a significant number of prescriptions and who have been identified as being statistically more at risk of hospital admission or readmission.

11. In partnership with Boards further guidance will be developed to aid the recruitment, deployment and associated pharmaceutical care outputs in the near future.

12. Since 2014, many pharmacists have been undertaking the additional independent prescribing courses and clinical skills training that the Scottish Government commissioned from NES together with advanced clinical skills training, which will allow pharmacists to fulfil this role. As indicated above NHS Boards have the flexibility to recruit, or enter into arrangements with, pharmacists from all sectors, which would include community pharmacists as well as managed service pharmacists and hospital pharmacists, who have not yet completed this training but would be able to advance their clinical skills and competence in the GP practice.

13. The £1.2m PfE allocation can be used for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and other support staff. However, Boards will have flexibility to use this allocation for any additional infrastructure required to support the development of these roles within other settings within their Boards.

14. We intend to work with Boards, in particular the Directors of Pharmacy, separately to agree investment plans and criteria and outcome measures to assist in the evaluation process. Once that detail has been agreed, further more detailed information and advice will follow.

15. Boards will be expected to provide an initial summary report by 30th September 2015 on how both the primary care and PfE funding allocations provided are intended to be deployed.

Action

16. **NHS Boards are asked to;**

- **Note this circular and prepare plans for utilising the Primary Care Fund allocation and the additional PfE monies;**
- **Submit by 30th September 2015 a report to the Scottish Government on how the funding is intended to be deployed**
- **Submit further information that will be agreed with the boards to collect on outcome measures by 28th February 2016.**

Yours sincerely



Rose Marie Parr
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Pharmacy & Medicines Division



David Thomson
Deputy Director
Primary Care Division

**2015-16 Primary Care Funding for Pharmacists in GP practices
and Additional Prescription for Excellence Funding**

Allocation	Primary Care Fund	PfE	Total
	£000	£000	£000
NHS AYRSHIRE & ARRAN	£92	£90	£181
NHS BORDERS	£30	£25	£55
NHS DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	£37	£36	£73
NHS FIFE	£83	£81	£165
NHS FORTH VALLEY	£67	£66	£133
NHS GRAMPIAN	£121	£118	£239
NHS GG&C	£275	£269	£544
NHS HIGHLAND	£80	£78	£158
NHS LANARKSHIRE	£153	£150	£303
NHS Lothian	£178	£174	£352
NHS ORKNEY	£30	£6	£36
NHS SHETLAND	£30	£6	£36
NHS TAYSIDE	£95	£93	£188
NHS WESTERN ISLES	£30	£8	£38
	£1,300	£1,200	£2,500