SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

2018 No. 1

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) 2018

Made - - - - 20 March 2018

Having effect in accordance with direction 1(2)

The Welsh Ministers make the following Directions 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.

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) 2018.

(2) These Directions are made on 20 March 2018 and have effect in respect of payments to be made under a general medical services contract for the period commencing 1 April 2017 and ending on 31 March 2018.

(3) These Directions are given to Local Health Boards.

Interpretation

2. In these Directions—

"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;

unless the context otherwise requires, the words and expressions bear the meaning they bear in the 2013 Directions.

Introduction

3.—(1) Under the 2013 Directions GMS contractors are entitled to Achievement Payments based on the total Achievement Points that the contractor achieves under the Quality and Outcomes Framework ("QOF") as calculated, generally speaking, on the last day of the financial year. The mechanism for calculating Achievement

(**1**) The National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (c. 42).
(**2**) The Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2013 (2013 No.8) as amended.

Payments is set out in Part 2 of the Statement of Financial Entitlements attached to the 2013 Directions and its Annexes.

(2) The following Directions make specific provision for calculating Achievement Points Total for the financial year ending on 31st March 2018.

(3) Under these Directions, a contractor's Achievement Payment is to be calculated in accordance with the 2013 Directions but with certain modifications to the means of calculating Achievement Points.

(4) Apart from the modifications in these Directions, the 2013 Directions continue to apply.

Calculation of points for the Cluster Network Domain

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a contractor who before 1 January 2018 was participating in the Cluster Network Domain is entitled to full Achievement Points for the Cluster Network Domain.

(2) The points awarded to a contractor must be deducted by 30 points if a contractor did not fulfil the requirement in CND001W to share the three year Practice Development Plan and GP Sustainability Assessment Framework (apart from the financial information) with the Local Health Board by 31 May 2017.

Calculation of points for the Active Clinical Domain

5.—(1) The following calculation applies for the indicators in the Active Clinical Domain apart from the two indicators set out in direction 6.

(2) For each indicator the LHB must award the contractor—

(a) the number of Achievement Points achieved in the year ending on 31 March 2018; or

(b) the number of Achievement Points used for payment purposes for the year ending on 31 March 2017;

whichever is the greater.

Excepted indicators in the Active Clinical Domain

6. For the following indicators in the Active Clinical Domain the LHB must award the number of Achievement Points actually achieved by the contractor (in the year ending on 31 March 2018) in accordance with the 2013 Directions—

(a) FLU001W; and

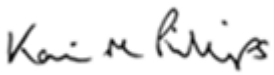
(b) FLU002W.

Achievement Payments

7.—(1) The Achievement Points Total for payment purposes is the aggregate of the number of points a contractor has gained under directions 4, 5 and 6.

(2) The final Achievement Payment must take into account any Aspiration Payment that the contractor has received in respect of the financial year ending on 31 March 2018.

Signed by Karin Phillips, Deputy Director, Primary Care Division under the authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers



Date: 20 March 2018