

GPC

General Practitioners
Committee



Connecting for Health

The IM&T DES: Interim Guidance for Primary Care Organisations September 2006

The following summarises the published requirements to date:

- Payments under this DES will be available for two years, ending on 31 March 2008.
- Practices must apply to their PCOs for inclusion in the DES before 1 February 2007. Arrangements for a plan to be submitted to the PCT by an agreed date must be in place by 15 February 2007.
- There are no aspiration payments for this DES: practices should be paid upon satisfactory completion of each component.
- Component 1, the plan, must include all the items in paragraph 6(4) in the Directions published on 29 June 2006. These include:
 - completed training needs' assessments and linked training plans for practice members using IT;
 - how the practice plans to "work towards" achieving data accreditation (Component 2);
 - how the practice plans to "work towards" achieving accurate maintenance of patients' addresses and participation in the Electronic Prescription Service programme (Component 3);
 - how the practice plans to "work towards" migration to the N3 network.
- Plans for achieving Component 4, moving to a hosted system, are not required.
- Component 2, data accreditation, is dependent on the agreed plan in Component 1 being in place.
 - Practices must be formally accredited by their PCOs as paper light to be eligible for component 2.
 - PRIMIS+ or equivalent facilitators will be required to assist practices in reaching the required data-collection standards for Component 2.
 - PCOs without PRIMIS+ trained facilitators can obtain free training in facilitation for their staff.

- Assessors will be required for the accreditation process for Component 2. They will require clinical knowledge at GP/nurse practitioner level and good health informatics' skills
- Free PRIMIS+ Data Accreditation training will be provided for assessors.
- Accreditation will last for up to 3 years: shorter periods may be used for certain practices.
- Practices that fail can reapply for accreditation, or appeal against their failure.
- The e-audit queries are being piloted and will be the only permitted format for the electronic accreditation process. These are written in MIQUEST and will be published and made available for download when validated.
- Component 3 is dependent on the agreed plan in Component 1 being in place. It requires approval of address validation policies and procedures; use of ETP release 1; and the intention to use release 2 when available.

Component 4 is dependent on the agreed plan in Component 1 being in place. It requires practices to have migrated to hosted systems to the specifications of CFH accreditation, which may not be available in all areas by 31 March 2008. Those practices which have already migrated to approved hosted systems can be paid retrospectively. A list of accredited hosted systems will be maintained on the GPSoc website. Currently, the only systems that meet CFH requirements for hosted systems under DES are:

- InPS Vision 3 Enterprise edition (as offered by BT CCA in the London cluster)
- iSOFT Synergy Enterprise (as offered by Accenture in the North Eastern and Eastern clusters)