

Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

An introduction for practice staff

**By Roving Practice Managers
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Primary care networks

Watch a short animation that explains the concept of PCNs and how this new way of working enables health and other services to work together to provide better access for patients.



Information for all staff

What is a PCN?

- PCNs are groups of GP practices working closely together - along with other healthcare staff and organisations - providing integrated services to the local population. Since April 2019, individual GP practices can establish or join PCNs covering populations of between 30,000 to 50,000 (with some flexibility).
- The next slide has links for information on each PCN. We have provided Links to ensure that the information you have is the very latest.

The aims of a PCN:

- To focus services around local communities.
- To help rebuild and reconnect the primary healthcare team across the area.
- Alleviate workload.
- Be practice-led, as ensured by LMCs and CCGs.
- To allow GPs and primary care practitioners to deliver a new model of care for their patients and communities.

How PCNs fit into the NHS structure

ICS (integrated care systems) are a new way of planning and organising the delivery of Health and Care services in England at a larger scale than PCNs. Every ICS will have a critical role in ensuring that PCNs work with other community staff and use multi-disciplinary teams across primary and community care.

Which PCN is your practice in ?

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's PCNs.

Nottingham City <https://healthandcarenotts.co.uk/care-in-my-area/nottingham-city-icp/pcns/>

South Nottinghamshire <https://healthandcarenotts.co.uk/care-in-my-area/south-nottinghamshire-icp/pcns/>

Mid Nottinghamshire <https://healthandcarenotts.co.uk/care-in-my-area/mid-nottinghamshire-icp/primary-care-networks/>

PCN Structure

Who is the Clinical Director for your PCN ?

The workforce and PCN will be led by a clinical director, chosen from within the GPs of each network.

The network will decide how the additional workforce is employed. Options could be:

- by a single lead practice
- by an organisation (e.g. a federation or community trust)
- different professionals employed by different practices within the network.

PCN Funding

- A DES (directed enhanced service) will support the development of PCNs. It will include funding for additional workforce and services that the PCN will provide.
- Each network will receive an annual payment of £1.50 per patient.
- Each practice will also receive £1.761 per patient through the [SFE \(statement of financial entitlements\)](#) when signed up to the DES.
- Additional funding for networks, will be available in addition to the current funding for GPFV and CCG funding.
- A new network investment and impact fund will be introduced from 2020. This is for the development of community-based services that reduce hospital visits.
- NHS England will fund 70% of each professional including their on-costs.
- Networks will need to fund the additional 30% themselves.
- NHS England will fund social prescribers 100%.
- NHS England will fund clinical directors 100% (for an average of a day a week for 40,000 patients).
- For further information see www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/primary-care-networks/how-to-create-and-run-a-primary-care-network

PCN Workforce

What staff make up your PCN? Do you know how to find out?

- Additional workforce will be introduced and partially-funded through the PCN. By 2024 there should be an additional 22,000 staff in primary care.
- From 2019: each network should be able to employ one [clinical pharmacist](#) and one social prescriber.
- From 2020: funding will increase for employment of [physiotherapists](#) and [physician associates](#).
- From 2021: all the above will increase and community paramedics will be introduced.
- From 2022: all the above workforce will be increased so that by 2024, a typical network will receive five clinical pharmacists, three social prescribers, three physiotherapists, two physician associates and one community paramedic.
- There is some flexibility around numbers and professions within networks.

Further information and resources

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/primary-care-networks/>

www.england.nhs.uk/publication/primary-care-networks-frequently-asked-questions/

www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/primary-care-networks/primary-care-network-funding

www.healthandcarenotts.co.uk