



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



28 October 2022

Dear colleagues,

Following the successful conclusion of negotiations between Welsh Government, NHS Wales and GPC Wales, we want to take this opportunity to collectively write to all parties to update you on the new arrangements for the GMS Contract 2022-23 and the coming year.

The agreement, set out at Annex A, which includes a 4.5% pay uplift for GPs and all practice staff, recognises your ongoing commitment and efforts in delivering General Medical Services to the people of Wales. At the same time, the agreement sees us make significant progress in a number of key priority areas, which will be implemented in phases over the coming year. The final stage of this implementation will, subject to consultation, see a new Unified GMS Contract from 1 October 2023.

Our collective aim, in jointly developing the proposed new Unified Contract has been to simplify and streamline the current contract arrangements and to redefine the core offering which all practices should deliver. Clear focus has been placed on clinical judgement and removing unnecessary barriers to service delivery to ensure patient need continues to be at the centre of how GMS is delivered. A formal public consultation on the policy aims of this proposal will be undertaken from April 2023, with an aim of bringing new GMS Contract Regulations into force on 1 October 2023. GPC Wales will also engage with the profession in Wales during this period.

Over the coming months, a number of changes will take effect, including the transfer of elements of the current Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework (QAIF) into the contract. This again reduces bureaucracy and complexity in arrangements

and ensures GPs and their teams can focus on those things which they should and can do at an individual practice level.

The whole healthcare system continues to face challenges which we will need to address. This contract agreement recognises that in addition to more immediate action, longer term consideration is needed in many areas to ensure that the workforce and the service are sustainable and fit for the future. A number of Heads of Terms commitments have been made which will explore key issues such as workforce and service sustainability, continuity of care, data and digital as well as recovery and transformation. Working groups will be established to take forward these discussions and the outcomes of those will inform contract negotiations during 2023-24.

Following the announcement by the Minister for Health and Social Services on 28 October 2022, the Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2013 are being amended to reflect the outcome reached.

In parallel, we will work together to ensure implementation happens at pace including the development of any necessary guidance.

Should you have any further queries on the guidance or changes then please contact your Health Board.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Casey  
Deputy Director  
Welsh Government



Nicola Prygodzicz  
Chief Executive  
Aneurin Bevan HB



Gareth Oelmann  
Chair  
GPC Wales



## **GMS Contract 2022/23 Implementation of the Unified Contract**