

## Primary Care Network Directed Enhanced Service (DES) Guidance for 2023/24 in England

The Network Contract DES Directions come into force on 1 April 2023 and sets out the requirements on practices and Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Key Points of Note Relevant to Community Pharmacy are as follows:

### Membership of a Primary Care Network

Under the Network Agreement, PCN membership is divided into two categories – Core Network Practices and **other PCN members (which includes Community Pharmacy)**. The Network Agreement sets out how the Core Network Practices will collaborate with non-GP providers which make up the wider PCN.

### Collaboration with non-GP providers:

A PCN must agree with local community services providers, mental health providers and **community pharmacy** (via the **community pharmacy nominated Pharmacy PCN Lead**) how they will work together. The service requirements will be delivered through **integrated working arrangements** between the PCN and other providers which describes how providers will work together, including agreed communication channels, agreed representatives, and how any joint decisions will be taken.

Within the DES Specific mention is made to the following:

### Medication Review and Medicines Optimisation

*“Work with community pharmacies to connect patients appropriately to the **New Medicines Service** which supports adherence to newly prescribed medicines.”*

### Enhanced Health in Care Homes

*“Support with a patient’s discharge from hospital and transfers of care between settings, including giving due regard to NICE Guideline 27”. Not specifically mentioned, but clearly a link here to **Discharge Medicines Service**.*

### Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention and Diagnosis

*“Working pro-actively with community pharmacies to improve access to blood pressure checks, in line with the **Community Pharmacy Blood Pressure Check Service***

*Ensuring processes are in place to support the exchange of information with community pharmacies, including a process for accepting and documenting referrals between pharmacies and GP practices for the **Community Pharmacy Blood Pressure Check Service**”*

### PCN Resources and Personnel

The PCN DES describes the roles of PCN/Practice personnel including the role Description for the **Care Coordinator**, which includes: *“Provide coordination and navigation for people and their carers across health and care services, working closely with social prescribing link workers, health and wellbeing coaches, and other **primary care professionals**, and:*

*Work with the GPs and other primary care professionals within the PCN to identify and manage a caseload of patients, and where required and as appropriate, **refer people back to other health professionals within the PCN.**”*

This could include REFERRAL of patients into the **Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS) using the GP CPCS pathway.**

GP CPCS also supports the GP/PCN target to provide patients with an appointment within 2 weeks. REFERRING patients in to CPCS can be categorised as 'TRIAGE' below, provided the patient is REFERRED using the GP CPCS pathway, thereby ensuring a formal transfer of care to the pharmacy.

Access (ACC) area					
ACC-08	Percentage of appointments where time from booking to appointment was two weeks or less	Of the denominator, the number of appointments for which the time from booking to appointment was two weeks (14 days) or less	Number of appointments provided by the general practice that were mapped to one of the following eight national categories: General Consultation Acute, General Consultation Routine, Unplanned Clinical Activity, Walk in, Triage, Home Visit, Care Home Visit, Care Related Encounter but does not fit into any other category.	Indicator denominator	Standard Quantitative; Upwards; 71; 85% (LT) / 90% (UT); GPAD

Within the PCN DES, PCNs and Practices have the following targets for Vaccinations:

ID	Description	Numerator (N)	Denominator (D)	Prevalence numerator (E)	Indicator Type; Desired Direction; Points; Thresholds; Data source
Vaccination & immunisation (VI) area					
VI-02	Percentage of patients aged 18 to 64 years and in a clinical at-risk group <sup>89</sup> who received a seasonal influenza vaccination between 1 September 2023 and 31 March 2024	Of the denominator, the number who received a seasonal influenza vaccination between 1 September 2023 and 31 March 2024	Number of patients aged 18 to 64 years and in a clinical at-risk group	Indicator denominator	Standard Quantitative; Upwards; 113; 72% (LT) / 90% (UT); GPES
VI-03	Percentage of children aged two or three years on 31 August 2023 who received a seasonal influenza vaccination between 1 September 2023 and 31 March 2024	Of the denominator, the number who received a seasonal influenza vaccination between 1 September 2023 and 31 March 2024	Number of children aged two or three years on 31 August 2023	Indicator denominator	Standard Quantitative; Upwards; 20; 64% (LT) / 82% (UT); GPES

Full documents:

03/04/2023	Network DES PCN	<a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-guidance-for-2023-24/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-guidance-for-2023-24/</a>
03/04/2023	Network DES PCN	<a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-contract-specification-for-2023-24-pcn-requirements-and-entitlements/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-contract-specification-for-2023-24-pcn-requirements-and-entitlements/</a>