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20 December 2019

Dear Gerard

COMMUNITY PHARMACY REMUNERATION 2020/2021

I am writing to you to outline the Health and Social Care Board's proposals for the Community Pharmacy pay offer for the 2020/21 financial year.

Calculation of the Global Sum for 2020/21

HSCB has used a recognised Department of Finance annual uplift factor (DDRB) to inform the adjustment of the previous year's Global Sum.

The HSCB acknowledges previous objections to the use of DDRB; however, the rationale for its use remains in that it is a recognised indicator to inform remuneration of primary care health care service providers.

It is not known what change DDRB will recommend for 2020/21. A working assumption is that, in line with other public pay, there will be a between 1.5% and 2.5% increase.

There are 2 options proposed for Global Sum in 2020/21:

Global Sum Option 1- An increase of 1.6% for the global sum element or £928.5k.

Option 1	Budget	Fee Level
Professional Allowance	£11.13m	£20.9k per practice
Ordinary Dispensing Fee	£40.34m	£0.98
Multiple Dispensing Fee	£7.27m	£0.40
Total Global Sum	£58.75m	

Global Sum Option 2- An increase of 2.3% for the global sum element or £1.34m.

Option 2	Budget	Fee Level
Professional Allowance	£11.13m	£20.9k per practice
Ordinary Dispensing Fee	£40.76m	£0.99
Multiple Dispensing Fee	£7.27m	£0.40
Total Global Sum	£59.16m	

Conclusions

There may be other options and HSCB now seeks the views of CPNI such that the Board can reach a decision to implement a new fee structure for April 2019.

I would therefore invite a response, in writing to me **on or before 14th February 2020**.

Should DDRB recommend different levels of uplift, we will seek your views in respect of applying an adjustment.

I attach also a copy of the equality screening form which has been completed in respect of this consultation. I would welcome any comments on the findings of the screening along with your response to the proposal on fees.

We will also issue this document to the network to enable individual contractors to contribute their views. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Joe Brogan (joe.brogan@hscni.net).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Sloan Harper
Director of Integrated Care

CC: Joe Brogan, HSCB
Paul Cummings, HSCB

Enc: Equality screening form