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Dear colleague

Provider selected for new occupational health service for GPs and NHS Dentists

I am writing to update you on progress made to establish a new occupational health service, for GPs and NHS dentists on the National Performers List.

This follows plans announced by NHS England in September 2015 to introduce a new national service specification for an occupational health service, to ensure all GPs and NHS dentists across England have access to a consistent and equitable service.

Following a procurement process, NHS England (South) has appointed Heales Medical Group to provide the new occupational health service to GPs and NHS dentists across the region. Heales Medical is an established provider of occupational health services to both private and public sector organisations.

The new service will be available from 1 April 2017 and will include the following services:

- Occupational health assessments for doctors and dentists on the National Performers List (NPL) and virology, vaccinations and immunisations for doctors (GPs), dentists and optometrists on the National Performers List
- Advice on exposure to Blood Borne Viruses for all primary care staff (including trainees) including specialist management of those that have Blood Borne Viruses.
- Where doctors and dentists applying to join the National Performers List need additional occupational health clearance due to a specific health need/s, NHS England will fund an enhanced occupational health assessment and fund support for work related health issues once individuals are on the list.

A copy of the national service specification for the new service is available on the 'Primary Care Resources' section of the NHS England website if you wish to find out more information about the new service:

www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care-comm/resource-primary

Primary care providers, as employers, will continue to have a responsibility to ensure any of their staff who are not covered by this service, are well supported.

Further information about how to access the new occupational health service from 1 April 2017 will be made available in due course. Any existing local arrangements for the provision of occupational health services to GPs and dentists will remain in place until the new service starts on 1 April.

Heales Medical is a specialist Occupational Health provider with experience in providing health solutions to a diverse range of public and private sector clients including NHS Trusts, Higher Education establishments, Local Authorities and Industry. Services are tailored to the client's needs with the aim of reducing sickness absence and improving employee's health and well-being. They deliver effective, result focused services including specialist EAP and Musculoskeletal assessment and treatment to support employees in returning to or remaining in work.

They are delighted to have the opportunity to provide Occupational Health services to NHS England, Doctors and Dentists on the National Performers List (NPL), entrants to the NPL (self-funded) and GP/Dental clinic staff (Clinic funded). In the next few weeks they will be providing a link to a secure online service for NPL entrants and GP/Dental clinics for referral and receiving information. They work in partnership with their clients and will work with both NHS England and GP/Dental clinics throughout the contract to ensure the service meets your needs.

The new occupational health service is in addition to the new NHS GP Health Service which has been announced by NHS England to improve access to mental health support for GPs and trainee GPs. This is part of the broader package of support being made available as part of the General Practice Forward View. Further information about how to access the new NHS GP Health Service is available at www.gphealth.nhs.uk.

Yours sincerely

Julia Cory
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