

4th July 2025

Tel: 0300 373 3550
www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Advice & Guidance (A&G) Local Enhanced Service (LES)

You may recall that as part of the introduction of the new Local Enhanced Services (LES) for 2025/26 we confirmed our awareness that a national A&G scheme was due to be released during the year, and that upon its release we would review the national and local scheme requirements.

We now completed this review, which highlighted considerable duplication between the two specifications.

We have therefore taken the decision to cease commissioning the local A&G scheme and transition to the national A&G scheme. The local scheme will end on the 31st July 2025 and the national scheme will be available.

The allocated budget for the A&G scheme is a fixed amount and to ensure all practices have fair access to this funding, it will be allocated and capped based on a weighted population basis. Details of what this means for your practice is detailed in the enclosed table. It is important to note that if you exceed your cap you can continue to use advice and guidance but will not receive any additional reimbursement.

A&G practice activity will be monitored throughout the year. We encourage all practices to seek advice and guidance when required.

Claims for the national scheme should continue to be made via CQRS, and in accordance with the national guidance outlined below:

- For GPs to seek **pre-referral** advice for non-urgent elective patients from a medical consultant colleague on:
 - Treatment plans
 - Interpretation of results
 - Appropriateness of referrals
- No referral has already been made
- May be by telephone or electronic means – e-Referral Service (e-RS).

We appreciate that this may raise additional questions and please send these to lscicb.primarycareles@nhs.net.

Thank you and your teams your continued hard work.

Yours sincerely



Peter Tinson
Director of Primary and Community Care