

New NHS Contracts e-bulletin

October 2008

Edition 6

Gateway Reference: 10976

Welcome to Edition 6 in a series of updates on the development of new standard contracts for NHS Mental Health, Community, and Ambulance services. A new Standard NHS Contract for acute hospital services was introduced through the Operating Framework in December 2007 for agreements between PCTs, as commissioners, and NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts as providers.

From April 2009 all providers, including the independent sector, third sector and NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts that deliver ambulance, mental health, community and acute services will begin to use the new standard contracts.* Further guidance on transition arrangements for different providers will be issued by the end of 2008.

The contracts will be based upon many of the same principles and requirements of the Standard Acute Contract, amended as necessary to take account of the different service and organisational contexts. The four NHS Standard Contracts will be published in December as part of DH Operational Framework. The contracts will be found at [this link](#)

Thank you to those who requested to join the distribution list. A list has been compiled and will be used for future editions of the e-bulletin and any additional updates. For further information, please contact the Contract Development Team on 020 7633 7455 or our new helpdesk: contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk

**Exceptions apply to some Foundation Trusts where their existing contract terminates after April 2009.*

Contents

[Timeline for Development](#)

[Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Contract update](#)

[Mental Health Services Roadmap](#)

[Community Services Contract update](#)

[Ambulance Services Contract update](#)

[Acute Contract update](#)

[IS Transition to the Standard Acute Contract](#)

[Workshops, Conferences and Events](#)

[Sources of information](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Join the distribution list](#)

Please visit

www.pcc.nhs.uk/events

**NOW to register for revised
Acute Services Contract
support workshops on
10 & 11 December 2008**

Timeline for Development of Contracts

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| • Establish Project Group | Jan 08 |
| • Stakeholder workshops | Feb - April 08 |
| • First draft heads of terms produced | May 08 |
| • Testing with stakeholders | May – Sept 08 |
| • Final consultation drafts | Autumn 08 |
| • Final Drafting | Nov 08 |
| • Publish final contracts linked to NHS Op Framework | Dec 08 |
| • Implementation support programme | Nov 08 – March 09 |
| • Introduction of new standard contracts from | April 09 |

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Contract Update

The draft of the contract was circulated to the reference group, including NHS Confederation, in September from which a vast amount of comments have been received. DH Contracts team have been reviewing these comments as part of the drafting process for the contract. The main themes from the comments leading to amendment discussion were:

- An overall recognition that a standard approach to contracting for mental health services is important.
- Queries as to whether the contract wording sufficiently reflected social care aspects of mental health services and integrated services.
- A concern that the contract did not sufficiently reflect the nature of mental health services and was overly modelled on the acute contract.
- Limited mental health contract performance levels
- A request for clarity on coverage of the contract i.e. by which commissioners using which services
- A request for proportionality for small providers

The Mental Health Contract Reference Group was held on 19 November where the progress on drafting and publication was discussed.

Contact: contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Roadmap for Mental Health Services

As part of the wider DH support for commissioners of mental health services the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has launched the *Roadmap for Commissioners for the Procurement of Mental Health Services*. This is an on-line resource pack for commissioners for all ages, including Child and Adolescent services, containing practical tools, guidance, case studies, templates and links to useful websites.

It integrates commercial and procurement elements with clinical aspects to help commissioners get the most from the provider market enabling quality and value for money in delivering improved outcomes.

The Roadmap launches at the beginning of December on <http://nww.pasa.nhs.uk/PASAWeb/PCTzone/Mentalhealthservice/>

Contact: zoe.greenwell@pasa.nhs.uk

Community Services Contract Update

Since the completion of the testing changes to the draft contract are:

- revision of the approach to maintain infection control
- to ensure the payment and prices section is Compact compliant
- the reformatting of the service specification template to aid completion at a local level

The revised draft of the service specification will be available shortly on the DH [contract webpage](#); guidance will be issued to confirm the mandatory areas for completion.

To help engage third sector organisations who will be affected by the new contracts a short briefing with frequently asked questions has been developed. A copy can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Contact: tracy.cannell@dh.gsi.gov.uk

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Ambulance Services Contract Update

Consultation on the first draft of the Ambulance contract took place throughout September. The pre-final contract is currently being drafted and was discussed at the Reference group meeting on 20 October 2008.

National Ambulance Contract Implementation Workshop

The national Ambulance contract implementation workshop was held on Monday 27 October 2008 at the Hilton London Metropole. *As this was the one national event, there was a lot of travel involved for some participants at this event so we're appreciative of the high attendance.* This workshop was open to all ambulance service providers, including PTS providers, and their commissioners.

Key elements being progressed relate to applying of infection control requirements, reporting and inter-relation between the Services and the A & E centrals.

Contact: contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Acute Contract Update

We are holding a further two workshops this year primarily aimed at those Foundation Trusts who are yet to move to the standard contract. These will be national acute contract specific, in London on 10 December and Manchester on 11 December 2008. The workshops will discuss the policy context, have current provider/ commissioner insights, and participant Q & A. They will also cover legal structure of the Acute contract and provide clarity on any amendments that may be required for the 2009-10 Standard Acute Contract released through the Operating Framework.

Please register to attend if you are an NHS provider or commissioner moving onto the Standard NHS Acute Contract from April 2009 or (should places permit), you're a provider/commissioner currently utilising the standard contract and wish to obtain a 'refresh' on the contract or wish to find out about some of the revised elements of the contract. Details of the events can be obtained at www.pcc.nhs.uk/events. Further information is supplied below.

Contact: contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Transition of the Independent Sector to the Standard Acute Contract

Work is ongoing to co-ordinate the transition of IS contracts to use of the Standard NHS Contract.

SHAs/ PCTs have been working together to identify lead commissioners for each of the ISECN/ FCN sites – further work is required to discuss with PCTs and IS providers to ensure that the arrangements balance the desire for local flexibility on agreement of activity plans, but corporate commitment to the standard terms and conditions in the most effective manner.

Contact: James Fisher c/o ISECN.CCMU@dh.gsi.gov.uk

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Workshops, Conferences and Events

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT WORKSHOPS

ACUTE CONTRACT WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 10th December 2008
Riverbank Park Plaza, London

Thursday 11th December 2008
Midland Hotel, Manchester

As mentioned above, we are planning to hold two national acute contract specific workshops at the end of the year, one in London and the second in Manchester. The workshops will take place on the 10th and 11th of December for attendance by any NHS FT providers and their commissioners moving onto the Standard NHS Acute Contract from April 2009 and, if places permit, providers/commissioners currently utilising the standard contract who wish to obtain a 'refresh' on the contract.

The workshops will discuss the policy context, content and legal structure of the contract and provide clarity on any amendments that may be required for the 2009/10 Standard Acute Contract through the Operating Framework.

More information, agenda, venue details and online registrations are available now on the PCC website:

10 December in [London](#) and 11 December in [Manchester](#)

Contact: contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk

MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOPS

Thank you to all those who attended the pre-implementation Community and Mental Health contract country-wide workshops during October and November. The Workshops were all fully booked and a great success. The feedback from each session has proved invaluable for the Contract team to take forward the next drafts of each contract and we thank all those who were able to attend and contribute.

A second stream of workshops will be held in each SHA in January/ February 2009. Details are being confirmed and will be published in a future edition of the e-bulletin.

AMBULANCE CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOPS

The national ambulance contract day held in London proved to be a popular event and there was a lot of opportunity for participants to challenge, interact and question the development of the contract due for implementation from April 2009.

A second workshop event will be held in January/ February 2009. Details will be confirmed and published in a future edition of the e-bulletin.

[Back to Contents Page](#)

For more information

[2008/09 NHS Operating Framework](#)

[Standard Contract for Acute Hospital Services](#)

[Commissioning Framework July 2006](#)

[Commissioning Framework for health and well-being – March 2007](#)

[FAQs – Third Sector Transitioning](#)

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Join the Distribution List

If you would like to join the distribution list to receive the monthly e-bulletin, please fill in the details below and either copy and paste them into an e-mail or add the sheet as an attachment and send to contractshelp@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Last name:

First name:

Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr):

Job title:

Organisation:

Organisation type (e.g. NHS Trust, PCT, etc.):

E-mail:

[Back to Contents Page](#)

Please visit

www.pcc.nhs.uk/events

in December to register for

January/February 2009

implementation support

workshops