

## **Clinical Waste Services for GP and Pharmacies**

### **Introduction**

This paper seeks to inform and agree with the CCG the approach proposed by NHS England for the commissioning of clinical waste services provided to GP practices (and pharmacies) across the Midlands and East (East) geographical area, based upon the national NHS England clinical waste procurement framework.

### **Outline**

The NHS is responsible for funding the collection and disposal of clinical waste from GP surgeries and unwanted medicines from pharmacies. The funding of GP clinical waste collections is set out in the 2013 Premises Costs Directions. NHS England nationally undertook a framework procurement exercise in 2016 which selected five providers. This provides the basis for awarding contracts locally to one or more of these five preselected providers. These providers will be subject to a mini-procurement exercise to select the best value local provider within the framework, for the collection and disposal of clinical waste from GP surgeries and unwanted medicines from pharmacies. It was intended to have newly commissioned services in place for 01 April 2017. However due to delays and an acknowledgement from the pilot area for the need of an increased mobilisation timeframe, the new contract start date will now not take place until after the start of the 2017/18 financial year.

Further details on the national procurement exercise can be found [here](#). These new framework contracts are intended to replace existing arrangements and contracts currently in place across the East.

For those CCGs that are already fully delegated or due to become fully delegated from 1 April 2017 the responsibility for providing GP clinical waste collections sits under the delegated budgets and responsibilities for Primary Care. Responsibility for commissioning and funding collections of unwanted medicines from pharmacies remains NHS England's direct responsibility.

The initial contract following mini-procurement is intended to be for a 12 month period (with the ability to extend) so there will be the ability to review the arrangements should they be found to not be meeting local requirements at the end of the initial 12 month period.

### **The Proposed Approach**

NHS England is proposing to procure services on the basis of two lots; one for Pharmacies and one for the GP provision across the East. Management of the contract would be undertaken within the delegated NHS England Primary Care resource. To ensure a consistent and equitable approach across service areas and to maintain economies it is recommended that the two lots (one for GPs and the second for Pharmacies) is the basis for

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the procurement. GP practices should not see a significant change in the service, a full mobilisation and engagement process will be undertaken by any new provider in conjunction with the Primary Care team prior to implementation of any changes.

**Related issue**

As part of analysis of the existing contracts it has come to light that there are individuals receiving clinical waste collections from their homes that have continued to be funded by NHS England as part of ongoing legacy arrangements that are not part of the Primary Care framework or Primary Care responsibilities.

It is not intended to include this area in the mini-procurements for the new contracts. The patient's local authorities retain the responsibility to dispose of the waste generated by their residents. Some councils have historically been reluctant to accept responsibility for such collections. As such, there are concentrations of residents within the East where NHS England has inherited a service from previous PCTs.

Legal clarification and an engagement process is currently being worked on nationally to be able to liaise with the relevant local authority. The intention is to transfer those residents receiving NHS funded collections to the relevant councils to continue the funding of the collections.

**Recommendation**

CCGs are asked to support the procurement of two lots (GP and Pharmacy) under the national framework for the GP Clinical Waste contract as set out in this paper.

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