

Transforming service delivery through better commissioning models: GP Confederations as a single provider of NHS Health Checks

Producing the specification

When Public Health transferred from the NHS to local government, Hackney Council embarked on a process of reviewing all historic contracts. As a mandatory Public Health Service, the Council had significant concerns about **low uptake** of the NHS Health Check locally, as well as significant **variability of performance** across GP practices (ranging between 0% to 27% uptake by eligible populations). At that time the council held individual contracts with the 44 local GP practices, as well as a community outreach provider who were considered to be effective, but not cost effective.

Hackney is fortunate to have a single boroughwide [GP Confederation](#). The organisation was established in October 2014, with each of the GP practices in Hackney and the City of London equal shareholders. This provides them with a unique position to motivate and influence their members, avoid duplication of health checks across practices, and to access the GP patient list. For these reasons the council agreed to offer the full NHS Health Checks contract to them through a 'single tender action'. The contract began in April 2016.

Specification headlines

-**Incentive payments** up to 10% of the total contract value (the full amount is paid if 18% of eligible population receive an NHS Health Check, and if every GP practice exceeds 12%). This provides strong encouragement for the Confederation to ensure high levels of activity in *all* local practices

-The Confederation adopted our previous **payment model**, which pays higher amounts dependant on pre-recorded QRISK2 (including no payment for patients with no recorded QRISK). This has improved the recording of risk, and may over time lead to targeted contacts.

-The contract includes KPIs relating to uptake by **target populations**, including men, Black African/Caribbean and South Asian groups, and residents under the age of 60. This ensures that NHS Health Checks contribute to our wider work to reduce health inequalities.

-Another KPI tracks the percentage of patients with QRISK2 $\geq 10\%$ referred to appropriate universal and specialist services for **support with lifestyle change**

Focus on quality

As with other local projects, this is supported by the [Clinical Effectiveness Group](#) (CEG), a primary care research and quality improvement team based at Queen Mary University in east London. CEG provide **independent analysis and reporting** on uptake, reach and outcomes of the local NHS Health Check programme.

Through the data produced by CEG, we can assure that the right advice and signposting has been provided, through read codes. Incentives for GPs to ensure appropriate follow-up and management of higher risk patients identified through the NHS Health Check service are also provided in the local Long-Term Conditions contract between City & Hackney CCG and the GP Confederation.

Lessons

The Confederation have been an excellent partner and provider in this first year, and have already demonstrated their ability to influence GPs to deliver NHS Health Checks. Their strong focus on primary care however does mean that outreach has proved challenging to them.