

WG - No. WG20-14

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (WALES) ACT
2006**

**Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of
Financial Entitlements (COVID-19 Suspension of Enhanced
Services) Directions 2020**

Made 24 March 2020

Coming into force 25 March 2020

The Welsh Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 45, 203(9) and (10) and 204(1) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006⁽¹⁾, and after consulting in accordance with section 45(4) of that Act with the bodies appearing to them to be representative of persons to whose remuneration these Directions relate, give the following Directions.

Title, application, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) The title of these Directions is the Directions to Local Health Boards as to the Statement of Financial Entitlements (COVID-19 Suspension of Enhanced Services) Directions 2020.

(2) These Directions are given to Local Health Boards. They relate to the payments to be made by Local Health Boards to a GMS contractor under a GMS contract.

(3) These Directions are made on 24 March 2020 and come into force on 25 March 2020.

(4) In these Directions—

“enhanced service” means a service listed in column 1 of the table in the Schedule to these Directions;

“financial year” means the period from 1 April to 31 March in any year;

“GMS” means general medical services provided pursuant to a GMS contract;

“GMS contract” means a general medical services contract entered into in accordance with section 42 of the National Health Services (Wales) Act 2006;

“GMS contractor” means a contractor who provides primary medical services under a GMS contract;

“Local Health Board” means a Local Health Board established in accordance with section 11(2) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006.

Suspension of Enhanced Services due to COVID-19

2.—(1) Enhanced services are suspended indefinitely, subject to the actions GMS contractors must continue to undertake in accordance with column 2 of the table in the Schedule to these Directions.

(2) A GMS contractor is entitled to continue receiving payments for an enhanced service suspended in accordance with paragraph (1) in line with the payment the GMS contractor received for that enhanced service in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year pursuant to the relevant Directions for that enhanced service.

Reporting on enhanced services

3. Any requirement on a GMS contractor to report on an enhanced service on 31 March 2020 contained in Directions of the Welsh Ministers preceding the date of these Directions is to be read as 30 September 2020.

Post payment verification

4. All post payment verification is suspended for a period of 12 weeks beginning with the date on which these Directions come into force.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Slade', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Signed by Alex Slade, Deputy Director, Primary Care Division under the authority of the Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the Welsh Ministers

Date: 24 March 2020

SCHEDULE

Table

<i>Directed Enhanced Service</i>	<i>Action</i>
Learning Disabilities	Suspend subject to normal provision of GMS during suspension period.
Childhood Immunisation Scheme	Continue, subject to the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call patient on the day of appointment to assess wellbeing; • Book appointments with more intervals to create space in the waiting room; • Introduction of dedicated children's session; • Minimise number of clinicians who see the patient.
Gender Identity	Suspend administrative component, subject to care continuing as clinically required.
Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunisations Scheme	Suspend, subject to normal provision of GMS during suspension period.
Services for Violent Patients	Continue, subject to NHS 111 triage assessment of patient on day of appointment.
Minor Surgery Fee	Suspend, subject to normal provision of GMS during suspension period.
Asylum Seekers & Refugees (from 1 April 2008)	Suspend, subject to normal provision of GMS during suspension period.
Care of Diabetes	Continue with the following patient specific modifications; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient is unwell, manage via normal provision of GMS; • If patient is stable, consider 6 month holiday from the scheme; • If patient's condition is less well controlled they will require input in order to optimise this. Consider telephone or video consultation if necessary. If patient requires physical assessment, call patient on the day of appointment to assess wellbeing.
Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Care Scheme for Adults	Suspend, subject to normal provision of GMS during suspension period.
Care Homes	Suspend administrative component, but routine healthcare will be required and potentially enhanced, subject to consideration of introduction of following modifications; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) and Treatment Escalation Plan (TEP) assessments; • Contact homes to enquire whether

	<p>require specific review post discharge;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce all non-essential visits.
Extended Surgery Opening	Suspend, subject to normal provision of GMS during suspension period.
Pertussis Immunisation for Pregnant and Post-natal Women	Continue, subject to the following modification; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call patient on the day of appointment to assess wellbeing.
Homeless	Suspend, subject to normal provision of GMS during suspension period.
Oral Anticoagulation with Warfarin	Continue, subject to the following modifications; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call patient on the day of appointment to assess wellbeing; • Book appointments with more intervals to create space in the waiting room; • Consider switching to novel oral anticoagulants (NOACs) or using self-monitoring.