

Prescribing Incentive Scheme 2019-20 (PIS) Update on Element 1 (budget gateway)

As recently communicated via GP Bulletin, you will be aware that there is significant national pressure on the primary care prescribing budget for 2019-20 and, based upon current forecasts, it is anticipated that this will result in an overspend position at year end for many practices. We recognise that these cost pressures are largely outside the control of both practices and the CCG - in particular, we have been affected by a number of in year increases in the price of many medicines. There has also been a higher than normal increase in the population of Oxfordshire which has added to this pressure.

In recognition that the current cost pressures have created some anxieties across both practices and PCNs, we have renegotiated the requirements set out in the Prescribing Incentive Scheme (PIS) in order to provide some assurance and encourage the ongoing work towards achieving the different elements of the PIS.

Updated PIS

Currently, achievement in the PIS for 2019-20 has the following caveat:

Practices are encouraged to work towards achievement of all four elements, however payment will only be triggered if the practice or primary care network (PCN) achieves the Element 1 target at year end i.e. keeps within budget. If successful, payment will be made for all other element targets which are met.

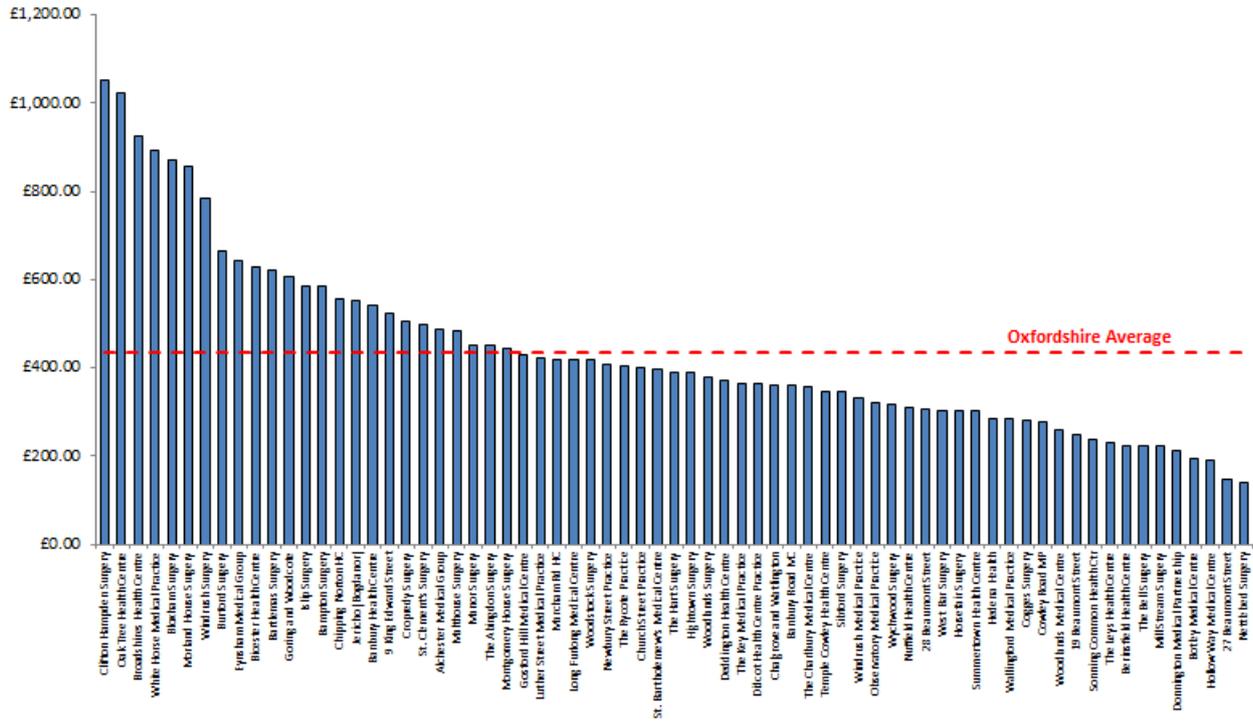
Following discussions with the CCG Finance Committee, it has been agreed that this budget gateway will be removed and an alternative gateway used for Element 1 (see below). Therefore, **it is no longer a requirement for practices/PCNs to fall within budget in order to achieve on the other three elements of the PIS** (ie. use of PINCER, prescribing of antibacterials and a cost saving audit).

NEW Revised Element 1

The CCG has encouraged the use of ScriptSwitch for many years but there is still a large discrepancy across practices in the use of, and savings associated with it and acceptance rates vary hugely between practices. We will now be measuring **ScriptSwitch missed savings opportunities** as the new gateway for Element 1 of the PIS as follows:

- In order to allow for a fair comparison, the missed savings per 1000 Astro PU for each practice has been plotted on the graph below;
- The average missed saving per 1000 Astro PU for practices is £436.40 - this will be set as the baseline for practice achievement;
- Data for Dec-March inc. will be used for the PIS thereby allowing all practices to start from the same position (the graph is just a guide to show current practice);
- Practices who have a missed saving per 1000 Astro PU of £436.40 or less (current average for OCCG) during the final 4 months of the financial year will achieve the £0.15 per patient budget (practice level) element of the scheme;
- If the collective PCN also achieves a missed saving per 1000 Astro PU of £436.40 or less (current average for OCCG) during the final 4 months of the financial year, the practice will achieve a further £0.15 per patient;
- It is expected that ScriptSwitch will continue to be activated on all prescribers' clinical systems and the CCG will continue to monitor this.

**Scriptswitch Missed Savings (per 1000 Astro PU)
April 2019 to July 2019**



Payment

As with the original incentive scheme, practices are encouraged to work towards achievement of all four elements, however payment will only be triggered if the practice and/or PCN achieve the Element 1 target (as described above) at year end. If successful, payment will be made for all other element targets which are met.

Element 1: ScriptSwitch missed savings opportunities	£0.15 or £0.30 per registered patient*
Element 2: quality - use of PINCER	£0.30 per registered patient
Element 3: antibacterial items per STAR PU PLUS % high risk antimicrobials	£0.15 per registered patient
Element 4: cost saving audit	£0.25 per registered patient
Max total payment	£1.00 per registered patient

* payment for Element 1 will be either £0.15 or £0.30 per patient as per the table below

Practice achievement	PCN achievement	Payment received for Element 1 (£ per patient – max £0.30)	Gateway to Elements 2, 3 and 4 achieved?
Y	Y	£0.30	Y
N	Y	£0.15	Y
Y	N	£0.15	Y
N	N	£0	N

Summary

In order to support practices in achieving against the PIS, the scheme has been updated as follows:

- The achievement of practice or PCN prescribing budget as the gateway to payment for the other elements of the scheme has been removed;
- The Element 1 gateway will now be a measure of ScriptSwitch missed savings opportunities (rather than budget achievement) and can be achieved at either practice or PCN level (or both);
- Achievement of Element 1 will act as a gateway to payment on any other successful elements;
- The appeals process for achievement will still apply and the team will take into consideration any mitigating circumstances (e.g. a number of high value missed savings that were clinically inappropriate to change but otherwise high acceptance rate).

It is hoped that by changing the PIS in this way, anxieties will be reduced and engagement with the scheme will continue. The CCG Medicines Optimisation team is keen to support practices in this work wherever possible; please contact the team via OCCG.medicines@nhs.net if interested.

November 2019