

**From:** Care England Policy <info@careengland.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 April 2021 10:00  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** Care England CQUIN Briefing



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## **CQUIN 2021/22 Briefing**

Dear members,

I would like to update you about the latest developments in relation to Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN). For in 2021/22 there has been a fundamental change in the operation of CQUIN.

CQUIN will now only apply under what are called the “Aligned Payment and Incentive” rules arrangements in the new [National Tariff Payment System](#) (NTPS) guidance. You can find more detail about the change in the NTPS documents and in the [Contract Technical Guidance](#) – at sections 2.7 and 46.11 onwards.

In effect, the new rules limit CQUIN applicability to commissioner / provider contractual relationships with an expected annual value above £10m (as well as those where the CCG and Trust are members of the same Integrated Care System or where the commissioner is NHS England for specialised services). This means that the whole concept of CQUIN will, in practice, cease to apply to smaller providers of NHS-funded services such as care homes – so an element of their funding will no longer be dependent on their performance against CQUIN indicators. We have been informed that, for this reason, they've removed all

reference to CQUIN from the shorter-form version of the NHS Standard Contract for 2021/22.

We understand that, according to NHS England, this isn't meant to pass on a 1.25% cost pressure to those providers who will no longer receive CQUIN. In turn, they have made clear in the Contract Technical Guidance (paragraph 46.16) that "local prices" should be uplifted to compensate. See below for paragraph 46.16 in full:

*"The changes above to the applicability of CQUIN mean that CQUIN will no longer apply to many contractual relationships with lower financial values, especially for instance those between CCGs and smaller non-NHS providers.*

- As a result, the National Prices and unit prices published as part of the 2021/22 National Tariff Payment System have been uplifted by 1.25%.*
- For contractual relationships governed by Local Prices (rather than by National Prices, the API rules or mandatory unit prices, as for example under the Increasing Capacity Framework), those Local Prices are of course a matter for local negotiation. But our clear expectation is that, as a starting position (before other adjustments are considered), Local Prices in place during 2020/21 should also be uplifted by 1.25% for 2021/22; this will mean that the change to the applicability of CQUIN will not cause a cost pressure for providers."*

Lastly, it is important to note, that the situation is further complicated by the fact that even for those larger-value contracts where CQUIN would still normally apply – they are rolling forward, for the first half of 2021/22, the light-touch contracting and payment regime which has applied under the pandemic during 2020/21. This means that the full CQUIN value of 1.25% will continue to be paid in full for eligible providers through to the end of September 2021. That explains why they haven't, at this stage, published updated CQUIN guidance for 2021/22 – but they plan to do so over the summer, if it is agreed that CQUIN should be "re-activated" for larger providers for the second half of 2021/22. But that will not change the position for smaller providers with lower contract values such as care homes – CQUIN will simply not apply.

Care England would be very interested to hear whether these changes have been communicated to you by those CCGs which you commission with? Similarly, do you have any queries or foresee any issues which you would like us to communicate to NHS England?

If so, please contact [Rwilliams@careengland.org.uk](mailto:Rwilliams@careengland.org.uk)

Kind regards,

Rhodri Williams  
Senior Policy Advisor



## **COVID-19 vaccination programme**

Documents relating to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme.

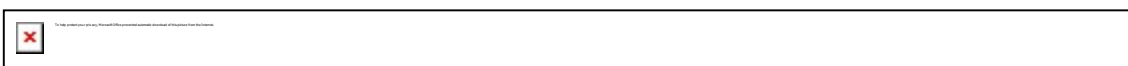
### **Contents**

- Guidance
- Training resources
- Consent forms and letters
- Leaflets and posters
- Programme documents

Please [click here](#) for more information.

## **COVID-19 vaccine emails**

Care England has been directed to the following email addresses to log Vaccine queries and we encourage members to also utilise them: [covidvaccineASC@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:covidvaccineASC@dhsc.gov.uk) and/or [COVID-19\\_VaccineTeam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:COVID-19_VaccineTeam@dhsc.gov.uk)





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