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To: PCT Chief Executives
SHA Primary Care Leads

CC: SHA Directors of Commissioning

8 April 2009

Dear Colleague,

Prevalence arrangements from 2009/10

In the 2009/10 GMS contract negotiations NHS Employers agreed with the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) that the current prevalence arrangements used to determine QOF payments would be amended over the next two financial years in the following way:

- on 1 April 2009, the square rooting component of the current arrangements would be discontinued
- on 1 April 2010, true prevalence will be used to determine QOF payments, i.e. the current cut off arrangements will be discontinued.

Although the overall effects of these changes are anticipated to be broadly cash neutral as they will redistribute QOF resources between GP practices, it was recognised that a small number of practices may experience a significant loss in their current QOF income. As a consequence, the following guidance was issued by Health Departments to their PCOs:

“PCOs should work with practices which identify themselves as experiencing a significant loss in their income to understand the impact of the changed arrangements on their current service provision.

PCOs will also wish to use the opportunity to consider the local health needs of populations and, working with LMCs and practices to identify whether new services or improvements in care should be commissioned to address these local needs.”



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We would hope that by now PCTs are aware of all practices locally that may experience significant losses to their QOF income and that PCTs are working with the practices involved in the way set out in the above guidance. We ask any PCTs that have not yet begun to work with adversely affected practices and their LMCs to do so as a matter of urgency. Further guidance has been made available to PCTs in England through the NHS PCC website (http://www.pcc.nhs.uk/uploads/QOF/2009/ready_reckoner_write_up_march09.pdf).

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Hakin'.

Dr Barbara Hakin
Chief Negotiator
NHS Employers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence Buckman'.

Dr Laurence Buckman
Chair
General Practitioners Committee