

# Prescribing Local Improvement Scheme North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups

**2020 – 2021**

**Approved: September 2020**

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## Introduction

Prescribing Local Improvement Scheme (PLIS) for 2020/2021 is a much simpler scheme compared to previous years' schemes due to the challenges that practices face with managing service provision during current Covid-19 crisis.

Ideally the PLIS should be aligned to QIPP but this year we have had to postpone major primary care based QIPP and instead are focusing on developing more robust and deliverable plans for 2021/2022. The challenge that the CCGs face is that if it does not present a PLIS this year then NS/SOT practices could claim a payment by default as there has been a yearly PLIS for several years. Also having a PLIS ensures that practices remain engaged with existing prescribing systems and any new initiatives during the year that maintain cost-effectiveness of prescribing and that reduce medicines waste.

Considering that practices only have 6 months remaining in the current financial year for implementing any changes to prescribing, this year's scheme has to be practical.

In line with the above rationale, this year's PLIS has the following requirements:

1. Containing *growth* in prescribing expenditure and there are practice specific financial targets to achieve in this respect – see appendix 2. Normally the scheme is designed to generate prescribing cost savings that are 2 to 3 times the PLIS payment but this year the targets are modest and designed to generate cost-savings that are only sufficient to cover PLIS payments.
2. Attending a session on prescribing that will be delivered by the CCG Medicines Optimisation Team. These sessions will be organised for groups of practices (PCN footprint or larger). Each practice is required to send a representative (prescribing clinician) to the session. Based on the presentation at the session, each practice will be required to submit an action plan.

Maximum PLIS payment will be £1.40 per patient based on an average practice list size for 2020/2021. This equates to approximately £720K if all practices achieved full targets. The payments will be sourced from the cost savings achieved in prescribing – if full targets were achieved then the cost savings in prescribing would equate to £760K (approx.).

**Note: this year's scheme does not set a precedent for PLIS financial targets for future years – normally any prescribing finance scheme would be expected to deliver cost efficiencies that are at least 3 times the payment.**

## Target 1: Managing growth in prescribing expenditure

The uplift for prescribing expenditure for 2020/2021 that has been agreed by the CCG Finance Teams is 3.7% on 2019/20 out-turn, and therefore, this will be the uplift that will be available to all practices. PLIS payments will apply to practices if they can achieve an efficiency saving in prescribing costs against this growth. In order to determine the level of payment and the level of efficiency savings required we have applied the following criteria:

1. The level of efficiency required will depend on practice’s current prescribing expenditure per head of weighted population – locally we call this “fair shares patient unit” (FSPU). Those practices with high level of prescribing expenditure will be required to achieve a greater level of saving.
2. In order to determine the weighted population (FSPU) we have used the NHS England fair shares formula for prescribing budgets and made further adjustments to take account of patients in residential care homes and in nursing homes.
3. **Between 2019/20 and 2020/2021 there have been significant shifts in care home beds looked after by practices due to the introduction of “enhanced health in care homes LES/DES”. In the signup sheet practices are asked to provide relevant information on care home beds that they serve so that we can take account of these changes. See appendix 3.**
4. For baseline prescribing expenditure we have used the prescribing out-turn for 2019/20 **less drug related cost pressures**. We have also excluded prescribing cost of following categories of drugs and items:
  - Drugs subject to shared care arrangements
  - Oral anticoagulants (apixaban, edoxaban, dabigatran, rivorxaban, phenindione and warfarin)
  - Dressings
  - FreeStyle Libre
  - Pneumococcal and influenza vaccination
5. The following table sets the levels for efficiency savings required according to practices spend per head of weighted population. Note that a 3.7% uplift will be added to a practice’s forecast out-turn for 2019/20 first and then the efficiency target will be applied to this figure.

Practice’s prescribing expenditure: % variance compared to CCG average spend per FSPU (rounded to the nearest integer)	Efficiency Target
10% or above	2%
<10% to 5%	1.5%
<5% to 0%	1%
<0% to -10%	0.5%
<-10%	0%

6. Note that practices which have 0% efficiency target means that those practices have to remain within the 3.7% uplift
7. See appendix 1 for calculation of FSPU.
8. See appendix 2 for practice specific efficiency targets.

## **Target 2: Attend a prescribing session organised by the CCG Medicines Optimisation Team**

The CCG Medicines Optimisation Team will organise sessions to discuss prescribing data with practices. The sessions will be organised on PCN footprint or larger. Practices must send a representative (prescribing clinician i.e. GP, Nurse Prescriber or Pharmacist Prescriber) to the session. The representative must share the information back at their practice and submit an action plan. Practices will be considered to have met this target by submitting the action plan to the CCG Medicines Optimisation team by the due date. The action plan should focus on areas of prescribing where there is unwarranted variation.

Details of these sessions and dates for submission of the action plan will be shared with practices in due course.

### **PLIS Payment**

PLIS payment will only apply if practices meet both targets. The level of payment will be linked to the level of efficiency savings achieved in prescribing expenditure.

For achieving maximum efficiency saving the payment will be £1.40 per patient based on the average practice list size for 2020/2021.

Practices that achieve an efficiency saving that is less than their target figure will get a payment that is pro-rata to the proportion of target value achieved. For example, if a practice has a target prescribing cost efficiency saving of £5000 but at the end of the year only achieves a prescribing cost saving of £2500 then they would get 50% of the maximum payment provided they have also met the requirement of attending the prescribing session (as explained above).

Adjustments to payments will be made taking into account prescribing windfalls, changes in list sizes and any unforeseen circumstances. For example, a practice which has incurred windfall savings due to a significant reduction in list size, may have its targets and associated payments readjusted accordingly. Similarly, practices which have significantly increased their list size, with a corresponding increase in expenditure, will have their financial targets revised.

The CCG also reserves the right to withhold any payments (part or whole) if the cost reduction targets were achieved in a manner not in line with CCG principles.

Payments will be made via the prevailing methodology of the CCGs. Practices will be notified accordingly.

### **Joining the Scheme**

Practices may join the scheme by completing and returning the sign-up form in appendix 3 by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

### **Reporting**

Prescribing data covering performance against the target on prescribing expenditure will be published monthly from October 2020. Practices' final achievement will be determined from final 2020/21 prescribing data which will be available in June 2021.

## Appeals Process

Any practice that has not achieved an award under the PLIS can appeal the decision. Practices are required to lodge an appeal in writing, citing the reasons of the appeal to the Medicines Optimisation Team by the date requested in the letter/email that notifies the practice of the outcome of the PLIS.

A CCG Appeals Panel shall then be convened to review the submitted evidence by the practice and make a decision based on the final performance data, and the date for that hearing will be communicated to the practice. All supporting evidence/documents relating to the appeal must be received by the relevant date as explained above. **Any documents received after this date will not be considered.**

The panel's decision will be final and will be communicated in writing within 10 working days of the decision.

## Contact Details

For any queries or concerns contact [Fiona.Porter@staffsstokeccgs.nhs.uk](mailto:Fiona.Porter@staffsstokeccgs.nhs.uk)

See Appendix 3 for a summary of the PLIS sign up and appeals process.

## Appendix 1: Deriving weighted population

The basic equation that the Department of Health and Social Care uses for deriving prescribing related weighted population is as follows:

1. Weighted population = (ASTROPU based index) x (needs based index) x practice list size
2. ASTROPU based index = ASTROPU weighted practice population ÷ actual practice list size
3. ASTROPU weighted practice population = ((total ASTROPU for practice) ÷ (total ASTROPU all practices)) x total list size all practices
4. Needs based index is published: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2016/04/allocations-tech-guide-16-17/>

In deriving total ASTROPU for the practice, following steps are taken:

1. Weight each patient according age-sex profile of the practice population:

Male age range	weighing	Female age range	Weighting
m0-4	1.0	f04	0.9
m5-14	0.9	f5-14	0.7
m15-24	1.2	f15-24	1.4
m25-34	1.3	f25-34	1.8
m35-44	1.8	f35-44	2.6
m45-54	3.1	f45-54	3.7
m55-64	5.3	f55-64	5.4
m65-74	8.7	f65-74	7.6
m75+	11.3	f75+	9.9

2. Adjust ASTROPU population of the practice by the number of care home patients registered in the practice. On average each *residential care* home patient is equivalent to 7.5 ASTROPU and each nursing home patients is equivalent to 11.25 ASTROPU

## Appendix 2: Practice specific prescribing cost-efficiency targets

### Explanation of column headings in the table below

List: actual practice list size as at March 2020

FSPU: weighted list size taking into account needs index, age-sex distribution of practice population and number of care home residents

OT: Out-turn for 2019/20 excluding expenditure on drugs subject to shared care arrangements, dressings, oral anticoagulant drugs, Freestyle Libre, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine and cost pressures during 2019/20 due to NCSO, concession pricing and higher category M drug prices.

£/FSPU: Annual expenditure on drugs per head of *weighted* population i.e. OT divided by FSPU

VAR: practice's £/FSPU compared to CCG average of £143.72 per head of weighted population

OT + UPLIFT: This is indicative prescribing expenditure for 2020/2021 assuming that the practice increased spending by 3.7% from 2019/20 i.e. OT + 3.7%

Target %: Efficiency target in % terms (applied to figure in OT+UPLIFT column)

Target £: Efficiency target in £ (obtained after applying % efficiency target to figure in OT +UPLIFT column)

Payment = potential maximum payment for achieving target

PRACTICE	OT	LIST	FSPU	£/FSPU	VAR	OT+UPLIFT	Target %	Target £	Payment
MIDDLEPORT MEDICAL CENTRE	£771,422	4,125	4,362	£176.85	23.05%	£799,965	2.00%	£15,999	£5,775
LOOMER ROAD SURGERY	£2,157,519	12,042	12,367	£174.46	21.39%	£2,237,347	2.00%	£44,747	£16,859
FURLONG MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,812,856	9,934	10,583	£171.30	19.19%	£1,879,932	2.00%	£37,599	£13,908
WILLOW BANK SURGERY	£1,673,396	11,371	9,948	£168.21	17.04%	£1,735,311	2.00%	£34,706	£15,919
THE MOORCROFT MEDICAL CTR	£2,693,525	15,434	16,082	£167.49	16.54%	£2,793,185	2.00%	£55,864	£21,608
THE HAYMARKET HEALTH CTR	£2,397,996	12,913	14,534	£164.99	14.80%	£2,486,721	2.00%	£49,734	£18,078
DR J GREIG & PARTNERS	£1,518,781	8,924	9,266	£163.91	14.05%	£1,574,976	2.00%	£31,500	£12,494
TALKE PITS CLINIC	£665,804	4,127	4,079	£163.23	13.57%	£690,438	2.00%	£13,809	£5,778
DR KS UPTON'S PRACTICE	£1,019,645	6,086	6,289	£162.13	12.81%	£1,057,372	2.00%	£21,147	£8,520

BRINSLEY AVENUE PRACTICE	£1,156,998	5,696	7,195	£160.81	11.89%	£1,199,807	2.00%	£23,996	£7,974
LYME VALLEY MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,135,538	8,006	7,088	£160.21	11.47%	£1,177,553	2.00%	£23,551	£11,208
BLURTON MEDICAL CENTRE	£510,969	3,234	3,252	£157.12	9.33%	£529,875	1.50%	£7,948	£4,528
GOLDENHILL MEDICAL CENTRE	£693,807	4,712	4,421	£156.93	9.19%	£719,478	1.50%	£10,792	£6,597
LEEK HEALTH CENTRE	£1,301,060	8,032	8,296	£156.83	9.12%	£1,349,199	1.50%	£20,238	£11,245
DR ROBINSON & PARTNERS	£1,075,206	6,731	6,948	£154.75	7.67%	£1,114,989	1.50%	£16,725	£9,423
TEAN SURGERY	£918,855	6,097	5,994	£153.30	6.66%	£952,853	1.50%	£14,293	£8,536
DR P CRAVEN'S PRACTICE	£664,907	4,167	4,377	£151.91	5.70%	£689,508	1.50%	£10,343	£5,834
HIGHERLAND SURGERY	£700,966	4,561	4,623	£151.63	5.50%	£726,901	1.50%	£10,904	£6,385
MOSS LANE SURGERY	£1,062,574	7,183	7,025	£151.26	5.24%	£1,101,890	1.50%	£16,528	£10,056
WOLSTANTON MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,661,470	11,443	11,008	£150.93	5.02%	£1,722,944	1.50%	£25,844	£16,020
WERRINGTON VILLAGE SURGERY	£1,233,499	8,059	8,189	£150.63	4.81%	£1,279,139	1.00%	£12,791	£11,283
MAYFIELD SURGERY	£1,924,155	10,520	12,877	£149.43	3.97%	£1,995,349	1.00%	£19,953	£14,728
TRINITY MEDICAL CENTRE	£633,557	4,497	4,252	£149.00	3.67%	£656,998	1.00%	£6,570	£6,296
PARK MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,860,246	12,464	12,563	£148.07	3.03%	£1,929,075	1.00%	£19,291	£17,450
DR DO YATES' PRACTICE	£1,075,129	7,384	7,349	£146.30	1.79%	£1,114,909	1.00%	£11,149	£10,338
BIDDULPH DOCTORS	£1,650,838	11,063	11,292	£146.20	1.72%	£1,711,919	1.00%	£17,119	£15,488
HONEYWALL MEDICAL PRACTICE	£446,864	3,128	3,066	£145.75	1.41%	£463,398	1.00%	£4,634	£4,379

LUCIE WEDGWOOD HEALTH CTR	£974,193	6,095	6,690	£145.62	1.32%	£1,010,238	1.00%	£10,102	£8,533
HARLEY STREET MEDICAL CTR	£1,120,664	9,245	7,727	£145.03	0.91%	£1,162,128	1.00%	£11,621	£12,943
THE VILLAGE SURGERY	£961,190	7,393	6,631	£144.95	0.86%	£996,754	1.00%	£9,968	£10,350
MILLRISE MEDICAL PRACTICE	£1,321,769	8,250	9,119	£144.95	0.85%	£1,370,674	1.00%	£13,707	£11,550
SILVERDALE MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,876,966	12,360	13,006	£144.32	0.41%	£1,946,414	1.00%	£19,464	£17,304
ALTON SURGERY	£370,764	2,595	2,576	£143.93	0.15%	£384,482	1.00%	£3,845	£3,633
DUNROBIN STREET MEDICAL CENTRE	£916,323	5,248	6,440	£142.29	-1.00%	£950,227	0.50%	£4,751	£7,347
KIDSGROVE MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,353,427	9,134	9,546	£141.78	-1.35%	£1,403,504	0.50%	£7,018	£12,788
BIDDULPH VALLEY SURGERY	£1,480,748	9,761	10,472	£141.40	-1.61%	£1,535,535	0.50%	£7,678	£13,665
ADDERLEY GREEN SURGERY	£749,304	5,460	5,301	£141.35	-1.65%	£777,029	0.50%	£3,885	£7,644
AUDLEY HEALTH CENTRE	£1,324,505	10,065	9,375	£141.28	-1.70%	£1,373,512	0.50%	£6,868	£14,091
HEATHCOTE STREET SURGERY	£833,556	5,227	5,909	£141.07	-1.85%	£864,398	0.50%	£4,322	£7,318
TRENT VALE MEDICAL PRACTICE	£1,177,564	9,347	8,363	£140.81	-2.03%	£1,221,134	0.50%	£6,106	£13,086
MILLER STREET SURGERY	£940,204	6,434	6,693	£140.48	-2.26%	£974,991	0.50%	£4,875	£9,008
MEIR PARK & WESTON COYNEY MEDICAL PRACT	£901,815	6,583	6,432	£140.21	-2.44%	£935,182	0.50%	£4,676	£9,216
NORFOLK STREET SURGERY	£1,143,241	8,827	8,246	£138.64	-3.53%	£1,185,541	0.50%	£5,928	£12,358
COBRIDGE SURGERY	£719,731	5,751	5,234	£137.51	-4.32%	£746,361	0.50%	£3,732	£8,051

FIVE TOWNS GP SURGERY	£457,617	4,998	3,361	£136.16	-5.26%	£474,549	0.50%	£2,373	£6,997
BADDELEY GREEN SURGERY	£692,638	5,614	5,105	£135.68	-5.60%	£718,265	0.50%	£3,591	£7,860
ASHLEY SURGERY	£574,437	4,324	4,236	£135.61	-5.64%	£595,691	0.50%	£2,978	£6,054
DR P D MILES AND DR R VALASAPALLI	£623,229	3,843	4,600	£135.48	-5.73%	£646,289	0.50%	£3,231	£5,380
TRENTHAM MEWS MEDICAL CENTRE	£491,890	3,567	3,644	£134.99	-6.08%	£510,090	0.50%	£2,550	£4,994
GLEBEDALE MEDICAL PRACTICE	£1,736,292	12,200	12,924	£134.35	-6.52%	£1,800,535	0.50%	£9,003	£17,080
CAMBRIDGE HOUSE	£445,659	2,802	3,323	£134.11	-6.68%	£462,148	0.50%	£2,311	£3,923
TUNSTALL PRIMARY CARE CENTRE	£1,514,478	12,061	11,366	£133.25	-7.29%	£1,570,514	0.50%	£7,853	£16,885
KINGSBRIDGE MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,075,726	8,809	8,173	£131.62	-8.42%	£1,115,528	0.50%	£5,578	£12,333
BELGRAVE MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,844,629	14,690	14,020	£131.57	-8.45%	£1,912,881	0.50%	£9,564	£20,566
DR H P BORSE & PARTNER	£721,824	4,813	5,556	£129.92	-9.60%	£748,531	0.50%	£3,743	£6,738
POTTERIES MEDICAL CENTRE	£734,954	5,614	5,707	£128.78	-10.40%	£762,147	0.00%	£0	£7,860
LONGTON HALL SURGERY	£903,669	6,890	7,061	£127.98	-10.95%	£937,104	0.00%	£0	£9,646
HARTSHILL MEDICAL CENTRE	£819,267	7,456	6,530	£125.46	-12.70%	£849,580	0.00%	£0	£10,438
APSLEY SURGERY	£854,099	6,811	6,872	£124.29	-13.52%	£885,701	0.00%	£0	£9,535
SNOWHILL MEDICAL CENTRE	£452,915	4,297	3,657	£123.85	-13.83%	£469,673	0.00%	£0	£6,016
MILEHOUSE MEDICAL PRACTICE	£370,056	2,753	2,997	£123.48	-14.09%	£383,748	0.00%	£0	£3,854

DRS SHAH & TALPUR	£833,351	6,972	6,774	£123.02	-14.40%	£864,185	0.00%	£0	£9,761
ORCHARD SURGERY	£1,433,842	10,562	11,680	£122.76	-14.58%	£1,486,894	0.00%	£0	£14,787
WATERHOUSES MEDICAL PRACT	£366,701	2,999	2,999	£122.27	-14.92%	£380,269	0.00%	£0	£4,199
BIRCHES HEAD MEDICAL CTR.	£897,791	7,722	7,479	£120.04	-16.48%	£931,009	0.00%	£0	£10,811
BROOK MEDICAL CENTRE	£1,812,810	14,461	15,431	£117.48	-18.26%	£1,879,884	0.00%	£0	£20,245
BETLEY SURGERY	£233,011	1,917	2,024	£115.12	-19.90%	£241,632	0.00%	£0	£2,684
KEELE PRACTICE	£318,168	7,991	2,764	£115.11	-19.91%	£329,940	0.00%	£0	£11,187
DR VSR CHADALAVADA	£1,173,696	10,781	11,284	£104.01	-27.63%	£1,217,123	0.00%	£0	£15,093
<b>NS &amp; SOT Practices</b>	<b>£73,966,295</b>	<b>514,655</b>	<b>514,652</b>	<b>£143.72</b>		<b>£76,703,045</b>		<b>£759,095</b>	<b>£720,518</b>

Appendix 3: Sign-Up Form

**Prescribing Local Improvement Scheme 2020/21**

**Practice Details:**

I agree to participate in the Prescribing Local Improvement Scheme 2019/20

**Signed**

.....

(On behalf of the practice).

Please provide the following information so that we can make appropriate adjustment to your PLIS financial target:

- a) Number of residential care home beds that the practice served during 2019/20:.....
- b) Number of nursing care home beds that the practice served during 2019/20:.....

**If there has been a change this year** to the above figures then please provide the following information:

- c) Number of residential care home beds that the practice serves currently:.....
- d) Number of nursing care home beds that the practice serves currently:.....
- e) Which month during 2020/21 did this change take place (if the change took place over a few months please pick a mid-point): .....

For the purpose this scheme a care home is defined as one that is registered with the Care Quality Commission (with or without nursing).

Return to [Fiona.Porter@staffsstokeccgs.nhs.uk](mailto:Fiona.Porter@staffsstokeccgs.nhs.uk) by 31 October 2020

## Appendix 4: PLIS Sign-up and Appeals Process

