

Draft ICP Contract: a consultation Royal Pharmaceutical Society response

The RPS supports the concept of Integrated Care Providers and the need for a contract to support their development. We are not answering the individual questions posed in the consultation document because there is a strong focus on detailed contractual issues and our focus is mainly on professional leadership. However, we would like to submit our wider thoughts in relation to the development of ICPs and the contract to support them.

The NHS is intending to promote an environment in which different teams and services can come together in a coordinated way, incentivising organisations to focus on delivering better patient care and improving the health of the population as a whole. There is much work that needs to be done locally and nationally to ensure the current workforce understand the changes and are mobilised to deliver care and services under the new and emerging systems.

We agree that an ICP should avoid duplication of effort and improve coordination across an area and also create an environment of collaboration between providers as they work towards agreed joint outcomes. We are pleased to see that the ICP contract includes an obligation to develop shared electronic patient records as we believe that all those providing care to the patient should have read and write access to records across an interoperable system.

Pharmacists, working across all sectors, have a key role to play in the delivery of the integration objectives such as supporting the prevention of ill-health, facilitating early discharge, reducing variation and unnecessary admissions, supporting integrated urgent care clinical hubs and providing relevant data to the ICP. Therefore, ICP contracts must ensure **all relevant stakeholders / providers** within an area are involved in early discussions on the development of an ICP. Pharmacists are a key professional group providing NHS services and should be provided with opportunities to become fully integrated into the ICP. Pharmacists have much to offer in terms of supporting people to live well, early detection of the onset of a condition and optimisation of medicines, particularly for those who have multiple conditions. Pharmacies in the community are also easily accessible to patients and the public and provide many opportunities to deliver health and wellbeing services.

Much of the proposed ICP contract focuses on GP services and the ability of GMS, PMS and APMS to work alongside the contract and the elements of these to be included within a fully integrated contract. However, there is no mention of other primary care services contracts such as the community pharmacy contractual framework and how community pharmacists and their teams would be able to be integrated into an ICP. Clarity needs to be given for other primary care providers before such contracts are put into place. In addition, the incentives discussed talk about CQUIN and QOF payments but ignore other primary care services incentives such as the Quality Payment Scheme as part of the community pharmacy contractual framework.



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About us

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional body for every pharmacist in Great Britain. We are the only body that represents all sectors and specialisms of pharmacy in Great Britain.

The RPS leads and supports the development of the pharmacy profession to deliver excellence of care and service to patients and the public. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy and the provision of professional standards and guidance to promote and deliver excellence. In addition, it promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

Its functions and services include:

Leadership, representation and advocacy: Ensuring the expertise of the pharmacist is heard by governments, the media and the public.

Professional development, education and support: helping pharmacists deliver excellent care and also to advance their careers through professional advancement, career advice and guidance on good practice.

Professional networking and publications: hosting and facilitating a series of communication channels to enable pharmacists to discuss areas of common interest, develop and learn.