MINI BULLETIN – 19 December 2023

**Medical associates to be regulated**

Physician associates (PAs) and anaesthesia associates (AAs) will soon be [regulated](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpcc-cic.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dfe51aa41404cfb64f7d454491%26id%3D5566e51ee1%26e%3D9be2819f9a&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099307390%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uko6YWL3Pka8Vah3StXUs6QZ2qKzCu6nIswnMnroHPA%3D&reserved=0) by the General Medical Council (GMC), improving patient safety and supporting plans to expand medical associate roles in the NHS.

The Government will lay legislation this week to allow the GMC to begin the process of regulating medical associates, who are medically trained healthcare professionals who work alongside doctors to care for patients.

The GMC will set standards of practice, education and training, and operate fitness to practice procedures, ensuring that PAs and AAs have the same levels of regulatory oversight and accountability as doctors and other regulated healthcare professionals.

The regulations will come into force at the end of 2024.

[L*ord Hunt of Kings Heath Labour*](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fpeer%2F%3Fp%3D13353&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099307390%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oF7rER2%2FBYurCJABjd%2FzxH718mi6qQGwt%2FA5Wmt0Wsc%3D&reserved=0)

To ask His Majesty's Government whether a practising consultant obstetrician is always present at **maternity inspections** undertaken by the [Care Quality Commission](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fglossary%2F%3Fgl%3D275&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099307390%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HV0%2FL1Gf9PXWbEBnu6S9ZAUwjLeclUH4Zor9U3AIahg%3D&reserved=0).

[Hansard source](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fquestions-statements.parliament.uk%2Fwritten-questions%2Fdetail%2F2023-12-05%2FHL879&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1o7nhhZU%2BjSZLGc5czLK%2F0t5DOSj95jZUugo8Xi%2FUfA%3D&reserved=0)(Citation: HL Deb, 18 December 2023, cW)

*[Lord Markham The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fpeer%2F%3Fp%3D26093&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eHTPSXF%2FG4hTY4yFXYZssDSRVr3Y38QNTpRMZRl0YcE%3D&reserved=0)*

It is the [Care Quality Commission](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fglossary%2F%3Fgl%3D275&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NaInsXFknHxgbRgyQLjaQpSTATyZNguXpLQ14kO63b0%3D&reserved=0)’s ([CQC](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FCQC&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RZ3O4VmUbCm4g5R1DNe5niQCO5gV6SWnqAutpydU9Ow%3D&reserved=0)) usual practice to ensure that each inspection combines the expertise of its inspection staff alongside the insights of a specialist advisor.

There are occasions when it has not been possible to recruit an obstetric specialist advisor; in such circumstances, CQC seeks to supplement the team with additional midwifery Specialist Advisors, alongside seeking remote or virtual support from either a consultant Specialist Advisor and/or its National Professional Advisor for maternity, who is a practicing consultant obstetrician.

[*Lord Markham**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care*](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fpeer%2F%3Fp%3D26093&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eHTPSXF%2FG4hTY4yFXYZssDSRVr3Y38QNTpRMZRl0YcE%3D&reserved=0)

**Spending on General Practice** (GP) services rose by just over a fifth in real terms between 2017/18 and the most recent data in 2021/22. More specifically it rose from £11.3 billion in 2017/18 to £13.5 billion in 2021/22, representing a 19% increase in real terms.

Payments to General Practices are published by [NHS Digital](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS_Digital&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OeLS6rASQl15q8sTLaOjSYjNu7BhzQOh6XBV6F9DYJY%3D&reserved=0). The attached tables show the requested real-terms, per-patient GP funding figures from 2014/15, which is the first year for which Clinical Commissioning Group summary figures are available; there is no data prior to 2013/14.

The tables summarise payments to GPs both in cash terms and adjusted for inflation. From 2020/21, payments are also made for primary care network-related activities. The final annual figures for inflation have been adjusted using the [GDP](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FGDP&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vuuMa%2FYFdOUyggmTAajjID6RM%2B1z0Eu5IARXMVirEsQ%3D&reserved=0) deflator published by [HM Treasury](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FHM_Treasury&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QgAxd6tOCjSmFl8G0J39m90RbhkRdFQrbIkEU3IMamQ%3D&reserved=0).

The figures attached are presented for payments per registered patient, as well as payments per weighted patient, where the weighting adjusts for differences in workload associated with age/sex, additional health needs, care home residents, list turnover, as well as areas costs and costs related to rurality.

The figures include dispensing doctors related payments and the number of dispensing doctors in each area will therefore impact payment figures.

We have reported the health geography most closely fitting the request, with data availability changing over the years; for example, the data for 2022/23 is available at integrated care board ([ICB](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FICB&data=05%7C02%7C%7Cb7bb6dd7c11b4a315b2508dc0082d3f0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638385809099464175%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rognynjU4fbhefaNDokpw44ktAxy04oPfdniiCp8B0k%3D&reserved=0)) level but not at a sub-ICB level, while previous years’ data is available for NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group