



Bedford Primary Care Development Team  
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*Sent by e-mail and post*

Website: [www.bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk](http://www.bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk)

December 2019

Dear Care Home Manager

**Re: Information for Care Home Managers in Bedford**

We are writing to inform you that a new National Specification of Enhanced Health Care Support to care home residents is due to be published in December, which will be provided by Primary Care Networks\* (PCNs) from April 2020. The aim of this service will be to enable all care homes to be supported by a consistent multi-disciplinary team of healthcare professionals, delivering proactive and reactive care.

It is clear that access to a consistent primary care service has a number of positive benefits both for residents and the health/care staff supporting them. These include: improved patient experience, better quality of care and health outcomes, closer and more effective working relationships between clinical and care professionals, more efficient working practices, increased carer confidence and a reduction in demand on primary, urgent and secondary care services.

In preparation for the National Specification, GP Surgeries within a PCN will be making contact with Care Home Managers between now and the end of January (some of you may have already been contacted) across Bedford to discuss GP practice alignment to care homes. The purpose of the alignment process is to have all residents in a home registered to one GP practice within a PCN, which will give these residents access to the services that will be provided within the home and make it easier for care home staff by having one point of contact into primary care. Individual patient choice, as ever, will be maintained and no resident should be forced to register with the aligned practice. It is hoped however, that once the service is up and running any residents that remained with their current GP would choose to move when they see the services other residents are receiving.

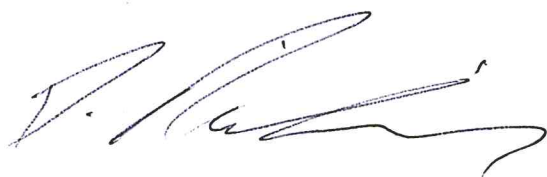
If you have any queries please contact Stephanie King: [Stephanie.king9@nhs.net](mailto:Stephanie.king9@nhs.net)

A further update will be provided once the National Specification has been published.

\* Primary Care Networks, PCNs, were formed as part of the requirements set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and the Five Year Framework. PCNs are a group of GP practices that form a collaborative working arrangement, whilst GP practices have always sought to work together, the Five-Year Framework for the GP contract put a more formal structure around this way of working.

PCNs must make geographical sense and have a combined population in excess of 30k registered patients. The intention is for PCNs to deliver enhanced services for the population of their Network, rather than these being commissioned at GP practice level. The aim of PCNs is to reduce health inequalities, manage services using population health principles and deliver services at scale.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Picking', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**David Picking**

Head of Primary Care Development  
Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Enclosure: List of Care Homes Aligned to GP Surgeries - Bedford