



*Department of Health
6th Floor
New Kings Beam House
22 Upper Ground
London SE1 9BW
020 7633 7347*

*adebayo.adekaiyaoja@dh.gsi.gov.uk
www.dh.gov.uk/pbr*

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Dear colleague,

Sense-check of the draft London Integrated Sexual Health tariffs

I am writing to invite you to take part in the sense-check of the draft London integrated sexual health tariffs. We ask you to consider the draft tariffs to ensure they make sense from a clinical perspective and that the structure of the tariff does not create any unforeseen consequences. Details of how and when to feed back are set out the response proforma.

To provide some wider context to the sense-check, the London Sexual Health Programme (LSHP) has developed an agreed set of draft currencies and tariff/s for all sexual health services to be paid by PCTs to providers of services. These are for sexual health pathways in a non-GUM setting, covering level 1, 2 and 3 for Sexual reproductive health (SRH) and level 1 and 2 for Sexually transmitted infections (STI) services and integrated STI / SRH care.

The second phase of the programme would include the development of Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) pathways and pricing proposals to cover GUM Clinic STI services at Level 1 to 3.

The sense-check exercise is intended to be on the validity for commissioning purposes, of the currencies and prices mentioned above and whether they can be applied nationally.

The DH PbR team has been involved in the London tariff project and it has been recognised as a DH sexual health PbR tariff development project. We have also expressed an intention to extend the work to a national audience as these are intended to inform future national currencies and subsequent tariffs.

Provided under cover of this letter are the following sense-check materials:

1. London Sexual Health Programme Tariff

- *Shadow Briefing Pack*
- *Contraception Pathways*
- *STI Pathways*
- *Guide on Implementing Currencies*

These are available on the Pathway Analytics (developers of the London currencies and tariffs) website at www.pathwayanalytics.com . You will need to register see all the data

2. Response Proforma
3. Assessment Criteria

Please note: An integrated sexual health activity datasets is currently being developed by the London sexual health programme with contributions from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the Department of Health PbR team. They will be made available to you in due course.

The main objective of the sense-check is to ensure that the London tariff is coherent and clinically credible and most importantly, that it can be rolled out nationally and your involvement is central to this process. We are also sharing the London currencies and prices with the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Medicine (FSRM) for comments.

Please may I remind you that this is a restricted exercise and that the materials shared are draft and should not be circulated any further.

To help gauge the readiness of your organisation for the sense-check exercise, I have included an assessment criteria to be duly completed by the lead official and returned to me at adebayo.adekaiyaoja@dh.gsi.gov.uk on or before 14 October 2010 confirming if you are still willing to participate in the exercise.

The LSHP tariffs do not include the market forces factor (MFF) element of payment associated with the activity. This will vary according to the geographical location of the provider.

We would welcome your feedback on the relativities of the tariffs including the proposed contraception pathways, STI pathways, guide to implementing currencies and the integrated sexual health activity datasets. All feedback received will be considered before the currencies and subsequently tariffs are considered for national roll out. However, there may be reasons why it is not possible to address every issue raised, and some prioritising of adjustments may be required. Whilst all responses will be acknowledged, it will not be possible to provide detailed replies in response to all of the issues raised.

Gateway Reference: 15491

We anticipate that the earliest possible date for a national currency for integrated sexual health services would be 2012-13, if evidence from the sense-check exercise presents a compelling case to do so.

I would like to thank you for your contribution in the development of national currencies and subsequent tariffs for integrated sexual health services on the platform of the London Sexual Health Programme. I hope this letter and accompanying information is clear and thank you in anticipation of your contribution to this key stage of tariff development for integrated sexual health.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ade', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ade Adekaiyaoja
Payment by Results – Development Branch
Sexual Health PbR Development Project Lead