NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ENGLAND

The Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (Amendment) (No. 2) Directions 2026

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 98A(3), 272(7) and (8) and 273(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006(**a**), gives the following Directions.

Citation, commencement, extent and interpretation

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (Amendment) (No. 2) Directions 2026.

(2) These Directions come into force on 9th November 2026 immediately after they are signed.

(3) These Directions are given to NHS England(**b**).

(4) These Directions extend to England and Wales.

(5) In these Directions, "the Principal Directions" means the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) Directions 2026(**c**).

Amendment to the Principal Directions

2.—(1) The Principal Directions are amended as follows.

(2) In Direction 4 (Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service Scheme)—

(a) after paragraph (1), insert—

"(1A) During the period beginning with 9th November 2026 and ending with 8th December 2026, after NHS England has published a variation to the arrangements under the Network Contract Scheme, NHS England must—

(a) offer to each contractor an opportunity to enter into arrangements under the Network Contract Scheme in accordance with the Revised Specification;

(b) offer to contractors who wish to enter into arrangements under the Network Contract Scheme but who are not part of a Previously Approved primary care network, an opportunity to apply to register, a new primary care network; and

(c) allow contractors to apply to alter or opt-out of membership of a new primary care network or Previously Approved primary care network".

(a) 2006 c. 41. Section 98A of the National Health Service Act 2006 ("the Act") was inserted by section 49(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7). By virtue of section 271(1) of the Act, the powers conferred by these sections are exercisable by the Secretary of State only in relation to England.

(b) NHS England (formerly known as the National Health Service Commissioning Board) was established by section 1H(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006 c. 41 ("the Act"). Section 1H was inserted into the Act by section 9(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (c. 7). The National Health Service Commissioning Board was renamed "NHS England" by section 1 of the Health and Care Act 2022 (c. 31).

(c) Those directions were signed on 30 March 2026 and amended by the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (Amendment) Directions 2026, signed on 30 April 2026.

(b) in paragraphs (2) to (6), before "Specification", in each place where it occurs, insert "Revised";

(c) in paragraph (6), after sub-paragraph (d), insert—

"(e) "Revised Specification" means the NHS England's Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service Specification, published on 26th March 2026, and updated on 9th November 2026(**a**)"."

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

Claire Amal
Member of the Senior Civil Service
Department of Health and Social Care

39 Victoria Street, London SW10 0EH
9th November 2026

(**a**) NHS England's Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service Specification and updates are available at https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/network-contract-des-contract-specification-2025-26-pcn-requirements-and-entitlements-26-27/ and hard copies available from NHS England, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG.