

THE HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1972

THE PRIMARY MEDICAL SERVICES (DIRECTED ENHANCED SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) DIRECTIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2009

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety^(a), in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 17 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972^(b), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby gives the following Directions:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (Amendment) Directions (Northern Ireland) 2009.

(2) These Directions are dated 26 January 2009 but shall have effect as from 1 April 2008.

Amendments to the Statement of Financial Entitlements

2. The directions given in the Statement of Financial Entitlements which were given on behalf of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 19 September 2008 are amended as follows.

Amendment to Direction 3

3. After sub-paragraph (1)(j) insert the following—

“(j) a Mild to Moderate Depression Scheme, the underlying purpose of which is to encourage the provision of non-drug therapies in the treatment of mild to moderate depression and the adoption of a staged approach to patient treatment.”

Insertion of Direction 13A

4. Before Direction 14 (Revocations), insert the following Direction—

“Mild to Moderate Depression Scheme

13A.—(1) As part of its Mild to Moderate Depression Scheme, each Board may enter into arrangements with any primary medical services contractor, but where it does so, the plan setting out the arrangements that a Board enters into, or has entered into, with the primary medical services contractor must, in respect of each financial year to which the plan relates, include—

- (a) a requirement that for each patient aged 18 years and over with a new diagnosis or episode of depression since 1 April 2008, the contractor—
 - (i) enters the patient on a Mild to Moderate Depression disease register;
 - (ii) undertakes to assess, treat and review all patients with mild depression in accordance with the appropriate stepped care model, as outlined by NICE

(a) See S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3(6)

(b) S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14)

- clinical guidelines on the management of depression in primary and secondary care;
- (iv) undertakes to assess, treat and review all patients with moderate depression in accordance with the appropriate stepped care model, as outlined by NICE clinical guidelines on the management of depression in primary and secondary care;
 - (v) undertakes to refer all patients with mild to moderate depression to the Pathways to Work Team within the local Jobs and Benefits Office/Jobcentre, in circumstances where work rehabilitation, training or employment may be of benefit to the patient's health and well-being;
- (b) a requirement that the contractor ensures that any health care professional who is involved in performing or assisting in the provision of services under the Mild to Moderate Depression Scheme has—
- (i) any necessary experience, skills and training as are necessary to enable him properly to perform such services;
 - (ii) appropriate registration with his relevant professional body and his registration is not currently suspended;
 - (iii) where the registration of a health care professional, or in the case of a medical practitioner, his inclusion in a primary medical services performers list is subject to conditions, the contractor shall ensure compliance with those conditions insofar as they are relevant to the contract; and
 - (iv) met the Counsellor/Therapist requirements as outlined within the Mild to Moderate Depression Scheme Service Specification published under the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) Directions (Northern Ireland) 2008 – Northern Ireland Service Specifications, Version 5 on 5 December 2008.
- (c) a requirement that the contractor supplies his Board with such information as it may request and in the standardised format provided, for the purposes of monitoring the contractor's performance of his obligations under the plan;
- (d) and the Board must, where necessary, vary the primary medical services contractor's primary medical services contract so that the arrangements comprise part of the contractor's contract and the requirements are conditions of the contract.”

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 26 January 2009.

Christine Jendoubi
A senior officer of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety