**Template letter from LMC to Trusts regarding implementation of new contract**

Dear Provider,

**Implementation of new hospital standard contract requirements**   
   
As you are aware [a new standard hospital contract](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/2-service-conditions-fl.pdf) came into force on 1 April 2017, with new requirements to reduce inappropriate bureaucratic workload shift onto GP practices. These are in addition to the requirements that were highlighted in the [16-17 standard hospital contract](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2-nhs-contrct-tech-guid-1617.pdf).

However, it is clear that despite these contractual changes, GP practices have continued to be burdened by the above bureaucracy, with many CCGs and hospital trusts seemingly unaware of these new requirements

The new 17-19 requirements are outlined below:

* Providers to issue ‘fit notes’ (previously sick notes) to patients under their care, where required.
* Timely production and transmission of clinic letters (where clinically required) following clinic attendance, to GP practices, no later than 10 days (from 1 April 2017) and 7 days (from 1 April 2018).
* A requirement for hospitals to put in place efficient arrangements for handling patient and GP queries promptly and publicise these arrangements to patients and GPs, on websites and appointment / admission letters; and ensure that they respond properly to patient queries themselves, rather than passing them to practices to deal with.
* Providers to supply patients with medication following attendance at OPD for the period established in local practice or protocols, but at least sufficient to meet the patient’s immediate needs up to the point at which the clinic letter reaches the GP.
* Hospitals must only initiate shared care arrangements where the patient’s GP is content to accept the transfer of responsibility.

We are asking practices to report breaches of the contractual requirements as outlined in 16-17 and 17-19, to both the CCG and yourself. This will give you, as a provider, feedback on adherence to these requirements, which will help you to take necessary action accordingly. We would be grateful if you could please confirm to whom such breach reports should be sent.

We look forward to an early response, with the aim of reducing inappropriate demands on GP practices, at a time when most are struggling to cope with escalating pressures. We believe that these measures will have the added benefit of reducing hospital bureaucracy as they should end the current duplication of administrative workload.

Yours faithfully,