

5th April 2023

Dear: Clinicians, Practice Managers and PCN co-ordinators

Re: Doncaster Indicative Budget Scheme 2023/24

I am writing to inform you about the launch of the 2023/24 Doncaster Indicative Budget Scheme (DIBS).


The primary aim of the DIBS is to encourage prescribers to consider the cost and quality of prescribing choices and, where appropriate, to reduce waste in order to decrease their overall practice expenditure where cheaper alternatives are available / medicines use can be optimised. This in turn will make best use of NHS resources and support the greener prescribing agenda.

Effective utilisation of the Optimise Rx system in practice will greatly support DIBS achievement, in addition to enhancing the safety and quality of prescribing. It is for this reason that we will be asking all participating practices to ensure that the system always remains active, and recommendations are accepted where appropriate.

Practices wishing to participate in the scheme must also be signed up to DIBS via the consent process led by the Locality Lead Pharmacist (MOT) within your PCN by the 30th of April.

I hope this information is useful for you, please contact myself in the first instance should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

C. McMurray 

Charlotte McMurray (interim Chief Pharmacist, MOT, Doncaster Place)

The Medicines Optimisation/Finance Team, Doncaster Place

Details of the Doncaster Indicative Budget Scheme 2023/2024

Timescale

The scheme will be operational for the 23/24 financial year, 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Budget

The scheme in its various iterations has generated improvements in prescribing practice and increased focus on prescribing costs. Over the years the DIBS relied on the whole place being underspent to achieve incentivisation coupled with national prescribing pressures caused by stock shortages, Covid-19 and Brexit which consequently meant we were in danger of causing disengagement from the DIBS scheme.

This year in an attempt to move practices towards a “fair share” budget as well as considering out-turn we will adjust the budgets to also consider patient demographics (using ASTRO PU which covers; age, sex and practice list size for time being measured) deprivation and the number of care home patients registered per practice.

Each GP practice has been allocated a target prescribing budget based on a combination of

- Historical spend – 80%
- Astro-PU – 15%
- Deprivation index -5%
- Number of Care Home patients per practice

Scheme Components

1. The Optimise Rx system always remains active, and recommendations are accepted.
2. The practice achieves a qualifying prescribing position as outlined below.

Where practices are within their target budget, they will be eligible to an annual payment of up to £1 per weighted patient this is based on the following;

- 50p per weighted patient for practices whose financial out-turn (FOT) is within the target budget
- 25p per weighted patient for underspending practices where their PCN FOT is also within the target budget
- 25p per weighted patient for underspending practices where the Doncaster Place FOT is within the target budget

Worked examples.

- If a practice FOT is above their target budget they are not entitled to a payment.
- If a practice FOT is within the target budget but their PCN FOT and Place FOT are above the target budget, then the practice is entitled to 50p per weighted patient
- If a practice FOT is within the target budget, their PCN FOT is within the target budget, but the Place FOT is above the target budget, the practice is entitled to 75p per weighted patient

- Where a practice, PCN and Place FOT are within their respective target budgets the practice is entitled to £1 per weighted patient

Monitoring

Practices will be kept informed of their usage of the Optimise Rx system each month; any concerns should be fed back to your MOT PCN link in a timely manner.

Prescribing monitoring reports on practice spend against budget will be made available each month. This information will be available to practices and PCN to assist in planning and implementation.

Payments

Payment will be made in full after the year-end following receipt of prescribing cost information from NHS Digital and is subject to the **practice signing up to DIBS by the 30th of April 2023**. Whilst prescribing spend against budget will be shared monthly so practices can monitor progress; payment will be made based on the annual position.

Examples of activities that will support delivery / provide evidence are:

- Having Optimise Rx always switched on
- Consider and accept suggestions presented by Optimise Rx when clinically appropriate for individual patients
- Adherence to the Doncaster Place prescribing [guidelines](#) and [Medicines Product Directory](#)
- Engagement with the Doncaster Place medicines optimisation QIPP programme
- Implementation/adherence to the [Self-care guidance](#)
- Utilise prescribing data provided by the Place MOT, [Open Prescribing](#) or other sources to identify areas of variation and respond accordingly
- Support ARRS pharmacists (and where appropriate other clinical staff) to deliver [SMRs](#) to optimise polypharmacy and where clinically appropriate to de-prescribe
- Work collaboratively with community pharmacies to reduce waste and optimise prescribing
- Review/optimize repeat ordering processes to support on-line ordering, whilst also ensuring waste is kept to a minimum