

NHS Business Services Authority – Monthly Meeting – Monday 18 March 2019

1. Attendees:

- [REDACTED] (NHSBSA)
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

2. Changes in the IB Team

- [REDACTED] was introduced to NHS BSA colleagues as he was to be taking over from [REDACTED] in the IB team.

3. Discretionary support for 2019/20

- [REDACTED] had sent through the new discretionary amounts based on the 2018/19 figures for 2019/20 adding on CPI (3.4%?)
- DH suggested that what had been agreed when this element of the scheme was reviewed was that income thresholds should be consistent for both the infected and the bereaved with three different income top up amounts depending on which beneficiary group they were in ie infected hep C stage 1, infected other, or bereaved.
- As this would not be ready in time for 1 April any changes would need to be backdated

ACTION: [REDACTED] find out how long analysts will take to develop a new scheme based on those parameters

ACTION: [REDACTED] to send across examples put in a submission previously to illustrate the disparity

ACTION: NHSBSA to send out letters to beneficiaries saying 2018/19 amounts were to continue initially but were reviewing it and new payments would be announced shortly and backdated to 1 April 2019

- NHSBSA and DH agreed 1 May deadline for introduction
- ITU deadline for beneficiaries to get applications in - 11 March 2019 – all applications would be processed and there had been no major issues with beneficiaries sending in their data again
- NHSBSA had provided a proposal for changing the way household income is calculated so having other adults in the house impacted less on the household income calculation
- Preliminary analysis suggests this will not impact significantly on the current scheme
- DHSC to okay before changing household income calculations
- How will the beneficiaries be told – should this be done as one change ready for 1 May?

- Suggested this was the sensible thing to do providing it was clear to people what was happening and made it clear to beneficiaries who may not have been eligible in the past that they may wish to consider applying – extend deadline for these people and backdate?
- Agreed 1 April payment no changes and then make all changes for introduction on 1 May backdated to 1 April
- Consider adding CPI to other discretionary sums?

4. Finance

- forecasting spend for 1st Quarter 2019/20
- [REDACTED] to send drawdown request for Q1
- [REDACTED] speak to [REDACTED] about forecasting
- Known pressures - CPI
- Unknowns - number of people moving from stage 1 to stage 2 or SCM, people dying, new people joining the scheme as infected or bereaved beneficiaries and their changes in circumstances

5. Date of publication of 2018/19 Annual Report and accounts

- This was flagged to check it was on NHSBSA's radar

ACTION: NHSBSA to let DH know date of publication once NHSBSA has final year-end figures

- It was noted this Annual Report would cover the full financial year (previous one November 2017 to March 2018 only)

6. Date of next monthly meeting – 16 April 2019

7. Date of next quarterly meeting - 24 April 2019

It was agreed that DH officials would travel to Newcastle for 24 April Quarterly meeting and then alternate with July in London, October in Newcastle, January in London etc

8. Low Income Scheme letters and applications

- Last week there had been about 10 requests for HC1 forms
- Conversation about putting Regulations in place are still ongoing but low on their priority list – update to be provided soon.

9. Medical assessor applications

- Only one suitable applicant so far – NHSBSA will interview and if appropriate use their networking to seek further suitable candidates
- Northern Irish scheme provided some names of people to get in touch with to see if interested
- Will check with Welsh and Scottish schemes in the same way
- Provide update an update at next monthly meeting