

**Locally Enhanced Service for Acute Post-Operative Removal of  
Sutures and Wound Management in General Practice**

Reference: LES 02

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## 1. Financial Details

This agreement is to cover the 12 months commencing 1 April 2010.

On agreeing a service plan with the PCT for the 12 months commencing 1 April 2010 practices will receive:

- £15.26 per suture removal (for example, sutures originating from Minor Surgery or hospital-derived day case activity)
- £25.44 (for complex suture removal after inpatient care)
- £20.35 per change of dressing (for dressings originating outside of the practice and to a maximum of five post-operative dressings per patient)

## 2. Service Aims

All practices are expected to provide essential and those additional services they are contracted to provide to all their patients. This enhanced service specification outlines a service that does not meet the criteria for essential nor specialised services. The specification of this service is designed to cover suture removal services. No part of the specification by commission, omission or implication defines or redefines essential or additional services.

The scope of this LES is derived from current provision of services by general practice that the PCT has accepted is not defined within essential services, namely:

- Requests for removal of sutures, where the operation was carried outside general practice as a consequence of a referral to or on-going care by hospital services, where is either inconvenient for or undesirable for the patient to attend at hospital.
- Requests for dressing changes and ongoing wound management as appropriate

The provision of this service will not be prejudicial to those Common Principles that underpin the GMS contract to ensure minimum standards are met and encourage high quality care. The range of standards includes:

- minimum legal requirements, such as having effective clinical governance systems in place
- complying with the NHS complaints system
- record keeping and providing information to the PCT
- having suitable premises
- producing patient leaflets.

## 3. Criteria

The service aims to provide practice-based, one-off, post-operative suture removal for patients and wound management as appropriate. This includes minor dressings, and the checking and removal of dressings.

This local enhanced service will fund:

- (i) The service described above
- (ii) The collection of activity related to the provision of these services including: type of activity, number of contacts and who provides the service
- (iii) Maintenance of adequate records of the service provided, incorporating all known information relating to any significant events e.g. hospital admissions, wound infections, drug reactions and premature withdrawal of therapy
- (iv) Each practice must ensure that all staff involved in providing any aspect of care under this scheme has the necessary training and skills to do so
- (v) It is a condition of participation in this LES that practices will give notification, in addition to their statutory obligations, within 72 hours of the information becoming known to him/her, to the PCT clinical governance manager of all emergency admissions or harm/potential harm to patients under this service, where such events may be due to administration/usage of the drug(s) in question or attributable to the relevant underlying medical condition using the standard Incident Reporting form.

### Exclusions

The following exclusions apply for practices providing this service:

- i. Housebound patients requiring suture removal or wound management will be the responsibility of the district nursing service and should be referred on accordingly;
- ii. Where practices cannot provide the service because of the specialist nature of the work (e.g. suture clips) these patients should be referred back to the originating acute provider of care. The PCT should be notified of this to enable further discussion about such discharge arrangements with the acute provider.

If at any time the practice is unable to offer this service the contracting team is to be notified immediately so that alternate arrangements can be confirmed to ensure continuity of patient care.

## **4. Accreditation**

Any staff involved in the provision of this LES will satisfy at appraisal (and revalidation if necessary) that they have such continuing clinical experience, training and competence as is necessary to enable them to contract for the enhanced service shall be deemed professionally qualified to do so.

- I. The collection of activity related to the provision of this service including type of activity, number of contacts and who provides the service.
- II. Maintenance of adequate records of the service provided, incorporating all known information relating to any significant events.
- III. Each practice must ensure that all staff involved in providing any aspect of care under the scheme has the necessary training and skills to do so. In particular the following criteria for standards for nurses in general practice should be applied:

### Training

- Receive annual mandatory training (e.g.) anaphylaxis, BLS, infection control)
- Appropriate, recommended and assessed education and training for removal of sutures and wound management and annual updates

### Professional development support

- Be supported to work within their scope of competence
- Belong to a local practice nurse forum/group
- Have a source of professional advice and support available through the PCT.

### Quality

- Have their competence in a new role assessed by a qualified assessor
- Regularly update protocols based on the latest national guidance
- Maintain a 'competence file' providing a safe record of what they can and cannot do.
- Carry out regular audits
- Evaluate patient satisfaction with nursing care

## **5. Ongoing Measurement and Evaluation**

The PCT will require a brief quarterly summary of work undertaken by the individual practice and will supply a monitoring and audit form to this effect for audit purposes. The PCT will also work with acute providers to assess changes in the number and type of work undertaken in primary care.

## 6. Signature Sheet LES02

This document constitutes the agreement between the practice and the PCT in regards to this nationally directed enhanced service.

### Practice Stamp

#### Signature on behalf of the Practice:

Signature	Name	Date

#### Signature on behalf of the PCT:

Signature	Name	Date