
DIRECTIONS

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ENGLAND

The Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (Amendment) Directions 2026

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 98A(3), 272(7) and (8) and 273(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006^(a), gives the following Directions.

Citation, commencement, extent and interpretation

1.—(1) These Directions may be cited as the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) (Amendment) Directions 2026 and come into force on 1st May 2026.

(2) These Directions are given to NHS England **(b)**.

(3) These Directions extend to England and Wales.

(4) In these Directions, “the Principal Directions” means the Primary Medical Services (Directed Enhanced Services) Directions 2026.

Amendment to the Principal Directions

2.—(1) The Principal Directions are amended as follows.

(2) In Direction 4 (Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service Scheme)—

(a) in paragraph (1), in sub-paragraph (a)—

(i) after “Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service Specification” insert—

“published on 26 March 2026 and updated on 30 April 2026”;

(ii) after “(the “Specification”)", insert, “which may, where approval is given to NHS England, be a local variation arrangement”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (3)(a), after “relevant period”, insert, “including to put into place a local variation arrangement”;

(c) in sub-paragraph (6), before (a), insert—

“(za) “local variation arrangement” has the meaning given in paragraph 2.2.25 of the Specification and is a time limited arrangement for local variation of specific provisions of the Specification following engagement with the relevant local medical committee (if any) for the purpose of supporting delivery of the Network Contract Scheme for patients;”.

(a) 2006 c. 41. Section 98A of the National Health Service Act 2006 (“the Act”) was inserted by section 49(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 c. 7. By virtue of section 271(1) of the Act, the powers conferred by these sections are exercisable by the Secretary of State only in relation to England.

(b) NHS England (formerly known as the National Health Service Commissioning Board) was established by section 1H(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006 c. 41 (“the Act”). Section 1H was inserted into the Act by section 9(1) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 c. 7. The National Health Service Commissioning Board was renamed “NHS England” by section 1 of the Health and Care Act 2022 c. 31.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CESAmaal".

Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street, London SW10 0EH
30th April 2026

Claire Amal
Member of the Senior Civil Service
Department of Health and Social Care