Briefing

June 2019

# General Medical Services (GMS) contractual reminder to help ensure individuals leaving the prison estate are registered with a community GP

**Background**

NHS England and NHS Improvement have published information to support GPs with registering individuals prior to their release from prison. This is a requirement of the [NHS England Standard General Medical Services (GMS) Contract 2017/18](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/17-18-gms-contract.pdf) (see page 64), which is intended to simplify the process of registering individuals as they transition back in to the community, improve the receipt of patient information and avoid unplanned treatment interruptions.

This is important, as we know a release from custody can be a crisis situation for some and can result in the reversal of previous health improvements. Furthermore, it is vital in helping to support better health outcomes and maintain continuity of care.

This positive change has been informed by patients, primary care clinical leads from community and secure and detained settings, Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service and Public Health England.

**Requirement of GP practices**

To support with registering patients prior to their release from prison, practices are asked to update their procedures and follow this improved process by autumn 2019.

**Further information**

For further information on the process for registering individuals prior to their release from prison, please visit [here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-england-standard-general-medical-services-contract-2017-18/) or email england.healthandjustice@nhs.net.