

General practice indemnity guidance for Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) members

November 2024



This guidance aims to explain the changes following the introduction of the state backed indemnity scheme for general practice (Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice, CNSGP) on 1st April 2019 and to provide reassurance to our members of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) that they will be unaffected.

Will there be any change to the way the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) will operate?

No. CNSGP will not alter the way in which CNST operates. The relationship between NHS Resolution and CNST members will remain the same.

What are the changes being introduced with CNSGP?

From 1 April 2019, CNSGP will cover all future clinical negligence claims (with an incident date on or after 1 April 2019) against GPs, practices and their staff relating to care of patients within the NHS.

CNSGP will cover primary medical services provided under General Medical Services (GMS), Personal Medical Services (PMS), and Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) contractual arrangements made under Part 4 of the NHS Act 2006, including such services provided under Schedule 2L of the NHS standard contract. The scheme will cover not only GPs themselves but will also cover other healthcare practitioners, locums, trainees and practice employees such as receptionists and practice nurses carrying out activities in relation to the provision of primary medical services. Out of hours and locum work will also be covered.

Benefits of the introduction of CNSGP for CNST members

One of the major benefits of the introduction of CNSGP is the opportunity for gathering and sharing learning about the causes of general practice claims across England. This provides an opportunity for shared learning across primary, secondary and tertiary care across the whole of the NHS.

We will also be able to minimise the potential for conflict between GPs and trusts who are co-defendants in clinical negligence claims. This will enable such claims to be resolved more quickly and where compensation is due allow patients to receive this without delay.

If you have any queries about the operation of CNSGP and its relationship with CNST, please contact nhsr.cnsgp@nhs.net.

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