

## NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB

### New Occupational Health Service for NHS Primary Care

A new Occupational Health service from Heales Medical will be available to NHS Primary Care practitioners and practices operating within the NENC ICB from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.

Heales Medical are an established provider of Occupational Health (OH) services providing high quality, easy to access services to the NHS South East and NHS South West Commissioning Regions since 2017. We will deliver our services in line with the NHS National Occupational Health Specification, following a procurement process led by NHS North of England Commissioning Support.

### About the New Service

The new service, commissioned by NHS NENC ICB, provides OH services in three distinct elements, which are described as schedules I, II, and III:

- Schedule I: which will be funded by NHS England including a core service for performers registered on the National Performers List (NPL).
- Schedule II: which will be self-funded by applicants to the NPL.
- Schedule III: an OH service made available to independent primary care contractors in support of their employer responsibility.

The new service is being provided in line with NHS National Occupational Health Specification, to ensure all NHS Practitioners working in Primary Care Settings in England have access to a consistent and equitable occupational health service.

Further information about the services that will be provided is detailed in the service specification that is available on NHS England's website at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2012/12/pc-occupational-health-service-spec.pdf>

### **Under Schedule I, the comprehensive ICB funded Occupational Health service will include;**

- Enhanced Occupational Health Assessment for NPL Practitioners via an easy-to-use secure online portal (or via email or post if preferred).
- Advice and report in respect of performer list practitioners in relation to their duties or to support their health, safety and well-being. Referrals can be made either via our secure online portal or via or in writing using the contact details at the bottom of this letter.
- Virology testing, vaccination for BBV and immunisation for performers on the NPL.
- Urgent and longer term advice to all staff working in primary care settings (including trainees) on exposure to potential blood borne viruses (e.g. through contact via needle stick injuries or contact with mucus membranes) as required. Support is provided via a telephone helpline which is accessed by calling **03333 449 006**.

**Schedule II services**, which are self-funded by the NPL applicant will provide:

- Occupational Health screening/clearance for entry to the National Performers List.
- Virology testing and immunisation as part of application to the National Performers List.
- This is a self-referral service pathway and the applicant should contact Heales Medical directly to commence their assessment using the details at the bottom of this letter.

**Services accessed under Schedule III** are invoiced directly to the practice, are funded by the practice and are provided in support of their employer responsibility:

- The broad aims of the services are to prevent ill health arising as a result of work, to assist with the appropriate placement of people at work and to promote the establishment and maintenance of high standards of the physical and mental well-being in all staff.
- The objective is to provide easy to access, high quality services that support employers and primary care staff by providing assessment in relation to the following:
  - prolonged/recurrent sickness absence and return to work after sickness absence or accident.
  - work related ill health, fitness to work.
  - periodic health assessment where a risk assessment has indicated that this is required i.e. COSSH.
  - ill health retirement.
  - advice in relation to injuries and ill when appropriate.
  - advice on onward referral e.g. counselling.
- Services will be accessed via an easy to use online portal. Registration can be completed by visiting [www.heales.com/index.php/type-of-organisation/nhs-occupational-health/](https://www.heales.com/index.php/type-of-organisation/nhs-occupational-health/)

## How much does the service cost?

For services provided under Schedules 2 and 3 a full price list can be provided upon request by contacting our team.

## How to contact Heales Medical

Our support team can be contacted at [nhsengland@heales.com](mailto:nhsengland@heales.com) or 03333 449 089 if you have any queries that are not covered by the information provided on our website at <https://www.heales.com/index.php/type-of-organisation/nhs-occupational-health/>