

## **DES COMPONENT 4 PAYMENTS**

DES Component 4 compensates primary care contractors that have migrated to a system that is Hosted to NHS CFH Standards for the effort involved in the migration process. This DES is due to expire at the end of March 2009.

For contractors who are participating in the IM&T DES, PCTs must review the contractor's progress in achieving components 2, 3 and 4 on or immediately after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 (SFE 7C.22). The PCT must discuss with those contractors that have not reached a particular standard the reasons why that standard has not been reached. PCTs have a discretionary power to make part payments to contractors where they are satisfied that the contractor has made all reasonable efforts to achieve the relevant standard and any matters that have prevented the standard being reached are beyond the contractors control (SFE 7C.24).

NHS Connecting for Health has confirmed that not all GPSoC suppliers that presently offer hosted services have met the standard in full. However, many contractors have taken the necessary steps and implemented the hosted services provided by these suppliers in their practices by the 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline in the IM&T DES. The fact that not all of the suppliers have met NHS CFH standards in full by this deadline is in no way the fault of these contractors. Where a contractor has not qualified for a DES component 4 payment as of right, PCTs are asked to exercise their discretionary power to make DES component 4 payments to those contractors that are, on 31 March 2009, operating a hosted service that has or is due to achieve Hosting to NHS CFH Standards.

The Department of Health has been consulted on the content of this statement and recommends that PCTs use their discretion as suggested.

The General Practitioners Committee of the BMA endorse the position set out in this statement.