

Subject:	Application for locum reimbursement costs, Wensum Valley Medical Practice
Presented By:	Carl Gosling, Primary Care Commissioning Manager
Submitted To:	Primary Care Delegated Commissioning Committee Meeting 26 th July 2018
Purpose of Paper:	Discussion and Approval

Summary:

NHS E (EAST) have received a claim for locum reimbursement for sickness (Item 7.1) from Wensum Valley Medical Practice, which is outside the parameters of a standard NHS E locum reimbursement claim.

As such NHS E (EAST) have sought guidance from the National Primary Care Team and it is felt that a decision on this matter should be made under the discretionary powers stated in the parental and sickness leave protocol (Primary Care handbook), hence NHS E (EAST) have passed this onto the CCG for approval.

Please see para 2.6 of the Primary Care Handbook guidance for reference. (Item 7.2 Attached)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/primary-medical-care-policy-and-guidance-manual-pgm/>

In summary, the circumstances of this claim is that the GP has an ongoing condition, the nature of which means that they are off sick intermittently and are unable to tell from day to day when they will next be in. This has been happening since May 2017. This has meant the practice has blocked out the GP's clinics and book when they know the GP will be in. This has caused the practice some problems having to employ a locum just in case. The practice has provided clinical information to support the claim and MED 3s covering separate occurrences for periods of 1 x 7 days, 1 x 2 weeks, 2 x 4 weeks between May 2017 and October 2017. The practice has asked if it is possible to consider if some sort of reimbursement can be made.

Normally there is a clear start and end date for an application for locum reimbursement. Reimbursement starts after the second week of sickness, with a maximum weekly reimbursement (for 2017/18) for weeks 23-28 = £1734.18 and weeks 29-54 = £867.09.

If the above individual periods of sickness were claimed on an individual basis, as the first two weeks of any sickness claim attract £0 reimbursement only the 4 week blocks of sickness would be applicable for reimbursement.

NHS E (EAST) would suggest the claim should be approved initially up to 52 weeks and then consider again using discretionary power whether to support beyond 52 weeks if required.

Recommendation:

The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to consider and approve the application for Locum Reimbursement costs from Wensum Valley Medical Practice, if appropriate.