



## Directorate for Adults, Health & Housing Integrated Commissioning

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[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

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### **Sexual and Reproductive Health out of area cross charging claims**

Dear Colleague,

In order to promote patient choice and good access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Buckinghamshire residents, Buckinghamshire Council commission a wide range of services across the county, including: traditional GUM services in acute hospitals, Sexual Health outreach clinics within the community, contraception services within primary care, as well as digital services. Although the majority of residents in Buckinghamshire access Sexual and Reproductive services locally, due to the open access requirements for Sexual Health Services we are aware that some of our residents choose to access services outside of our county, often because they live on the border of Buckinghamshire, or because out of area services may be close to their place of work; therefore arrangements must be in place to enable the recharging of these services to the residing local authority area.

As with previous financial years, Buckinghamshire is signed up to the South East Local Authorities Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Cross Charging Policy which is written in adherence with the Department of Health & Social Care guidance titled: *Sexual Health Services: Key Principles for Cross Charging Updated guidance for commissioners and providers of sexual and reproductive health services in England* (August 2018) which can be downloaded here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/731134/sexual-health-services-cross-charging-guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/731134/sexual-health-services-cross-charging-guidance.pdf)

In accordance with this guidance, Buckinghamshire Council reimburse out of area providers who deliver GUM Services for testing, treatment and care of STIs to our residents, however we do not reimburse for contraception due to the fact that since 2012/13 funding allocated to local authorities for the commissioning of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services has been on the basis of continued host funding for contraception, as detailed in the above Department of Health & Social Care guidance.

On occasions we receive claims for out of area charges that have contraception included within the charges. Should you have any Buckinghamshire residents seeking contraception services at one of your clinics, please can you refer them to one of our local services that are detailed on our website, as we are not able to pay for out of area claims that include contraception: <https://sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk/>. We will however continue to pay for invoices for the following, if this activity forms part of an integrated tariff activity:

- provision of emergency contraception (pill or IUD)
- pregnancy test
- initial starter pack of oral contraception as part of an integrated GUM consultation

If we identify that contraception charges such as LARC fittings and removals within out of area claims, invoices will get returned unpaid until a revised invoice is submitted without these contraception charges included. If payments are made to out of area providers and following an audit, we identify that we have unknowingly paid for contraception, the Council will seek to recover these costs retrospectively.

In order to reduce any risk of disputed claims and improve the timeliness of payments to providers, can I kindly ask that you share with us details of all your out of area cross charging tariffs for the current financial year, together with written confirmation that these are the same tariffs as what you are charging your local commissioners. This is in line with the DHSC Guidance on cross charging. Without this information we will not be able to verify claims, which could also result in a delay to payment. Please note, we will not be able to process payments if claims are not supported by appropriate backing data. Attached is a template for you to complete and return to: [phcontracts@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:phcontracts@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

If you have any queries in regards to this letter, please contact Helen Priestley, Project Support Officer, on: [helen.priestley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.priestley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Johnson', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Adam Johnson  
**Specialist Commissioning Manager – Public Health & Wellbeing**