

Closure of Visa Support Service

27 March 2024, Version 1

Purpose

As part of the closure of NHS England's Primary Care Workforce Team and the transfer of members of the team to various new roles within NHS England's Workforce, Training and Education Directorate, the national Visa Support Service for GPs and GP practices currently provided by the team will also be closing.

This guidance details how the closure will impact on the current visa support services provided by the team.

Reimbursement of visa costs for GPs

From 24/25, NHS England funding for visa costs will be transferred directly to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) on a fair allocation basis and will be included as part of the System Development Funding (SDF) for Primary Care. It will be the responsibility of each ICB to determine whether they wish to continue to reimburse GPs and their dependents for visa costs from 24/25. ICBs will need to develop their own processes for managing these claims and reimbursements.

As a result of this change, there will no longer be a requirement for GPs and practices to complete and submit a visa claims reimbursement form to NHS England's Primary Care Workforce Team or for NHS England's regional primary care teams to approve and manage allocations to ICBs and practices for visa costs.

Any outstanding [visa reimbursement claims forms](#) must be submitted by practices to the Primary Care Workforce Team via england.primarycareworkforce@nhs.net by no later than close of business on **30 April 2024**.

Practice matching for newly qualified GPs

The team will no longer provide national coordination of the practice matching service for newly qualified GPs that are seeking roles at practices able to offer visa sponsorship.

Regional teams and ICBs will need to determine whether they continue to provide this service to newly qualified GPs in their area.

National coordination of practice matching will end on **31 May 2024**.

Trainee visa sponsorship reports for regions

No further reports for regional teams providing contact information for sponsored GP trainees in their region will be produced by the Primary Care Workforce Team.

Regional colleagues and ICBs wishing to still access this information should instead liaise directly with their regional NHS England GP Specialty Training Programme colleagues.

Visa sponsorship guidance for practices

There will be no further updates to the existing suite of visa sponsorship guidance materials available for practices on the [GP Workforce Scheme Delivery Hub](#).

The existing materials will continue to be available on an interim basis but practices accessing the documents should be aware that they may become out of date as a result of any changes to Home Office processes.

The Home Office also publishes a range of [user manuals](#) to support organisations that hold sponsorship licences.

Visa queries and issues

National support for practices, ICBs, regional teams and GPs with visa queries and issues will end on **31 May 2024**.

Any visa related queries and issues should instead be raised directly with the dedicated NHS Visa Team at the Home Office via UKVINHSTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Any queries relating to the 4-month visa extension for newly qualified GPs should be raised with NHS England's Overseas Sponsorship Team via england.sponsorship@nhs.net.

The British Medical Association (BMA) also offers an immigration advice service that can be accessed by members. Contact information can be found [here](#).

Return to Practice and International Induction Programmes

Please note that visa support for GPs and practices participating in NHS England's Return to Practice and International Induction Programmes will continue to be available.

Separate guidance on accessing this support will be provided to regional leads supporting the delivery of these programmes.