

To:  
All Bedfordshire CCG GP Members

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13 January 2015

Dear Colleagues

### **Prescribing Incentive Scheme Fund 2012-2013 and 2013-2014**

As you are aware, Bedfordshire CCG has a projected end of financial year £28.8million overspend.

It is a statutory obligation of all CCGs to achieve financial balance. Your Executive Committee has considered a number of options to ensure our overspend is no greater.

By necessity, we have had to consider a number of highly unpalatable options.

One of our most successful areas for supporting high quality, evidence based care is through primary care prescribing. In order to drive forward rapid improvements across all GP practices we have a prescribing incentive scheme.

The 2014-15 scheme is so important to maximising value for money that this will be retained without any change. However, we hold monies on behalf of GP practices for achievements in 2012-13 and 2013-14 amounting to £460,000. Whilst this may be earmarked by practices, we cannot defend spending this money at a time when we cannot afford all of our direct patient services.

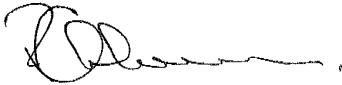
As a GP member organisation we have an opportunity to make a visible contribution to addressing the financial shortfall of our organisation. Donating the funds already earned by the prescribing incentive schemes (2012-2013 and 2013-2014) will help us to achieve our financial recovery. This will demonstrate to all providers of NHS healthcare the seriousness of the situation that we face and that GPs are at the forefront of leading the recovery.

Further actions will need to be taken to achieve financial recovery. There are actions that each practice can and must take now to minimise impact on patient services. If all practices prioritise work on reducing use of high dose inhaled corticosteroids and greater acceptance of Scriptswitch messages we could save a further £100,000 this year.



Even when medication is initiated in secondary care, we are in a position to challenge when it falls outside local formularies and guidance. Your locality pharmaceutical advisors can help you identify further savings in your practice this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Hassan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dr Paul Hassan**  
**Accountable Officer**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Ella', with a large, stylized initial 'B' and a horizontal flourish.

**Dr Bruce Ella**  
**Chiltern Vale Locality Chair and**  
**Prescribing Committee Chair**