EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONING BOARD AND CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS (RESPONSIBILITIES AND STANDING RULES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2023

2023 No. 288

1. Introduction

1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and Social Care ('DHSC') and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Purpose of the instrument

2.1 This instrument amends the National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) Regulations 2012 ("the 2012 Regulations"), which provide for a range of matters relating to the functioning and commissioning responsibilities of NHS England and integrated care boards (ICBs). This instrument amends the 2012 Regulations to increase the rates of NHS-funded Nursing Care payable by the relevant body (NHS England or ICBs).

3. Matters of special interest to Parliament

Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Extent and Territorial Application

4.1 The extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction(s) which the instrument forms part of the law of) is England and Wales.

4.2 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is England.

5. European Convention on Human Rights

5.1 As this instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

6. Legislative Context

6.1 Section 6E of the National Health Service Act 2006 (the 2006 Act) was inserted by section 20 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. It enables the Secretary of State to impose requirements by regulations on NHS England and ICBs when they are exercising their functions of commissioning health services. These requirements are known as the "Standing Rules" because they are intended to set core, ongoing requirements for the health service. The first set of Standing Rules was made as part of the 2012 Regulations.

6.2 Part 6 of the 2012 Regulations makes provision about NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care. Regulation 20 sets out the flat rate and high band

payments payable in respect of NHS-funded Nursing Care. The amendments to Regulation 20 made by this instrument increases both of the rates payable for NHS-funded Nursing Care.

6.3 Under section 6E(9) of the 2006 Act, where regulations under section 6E are made to come into force on a day other than 1 April, the Secretary of State must publish a statement explaining the reasons for making the regulations so as to come into force on such a day, and lay the statement before Parliament. As such, although 1 April 2023 falls on a Saturday, this instrument will enter force on that date.

7. Policy background

What is NHS-funded Nursing Care?

7.1 NHS-funded Nursing Care is the funding provided by the NHS to care homes providing nursing to support the provision of nursing care by a registered nurse for those assessed as eligible. If an individual does not qualify for NHS Continuing Healthcare, the need for care from a registered nurse should be determined. If the individual has such a need and it is determined that the individual's overall needs would be most appropriately met in a care home providing nursing care, then this would consequently lead to eligibility for NHS-funded Nursing Care. Once the need for such care is agreed, the relevant body's responsibility to pay a flat rate contribution to the care home towards registered nursing care costs arises.

What is being done and why

7.2 There are two rates of NHS-funded Nursing Care payable, the flat rate payment and the high band payment. The single band of NHS-funded Nursing Care was introduced on 1 October 2007 and replaced the previous low, medium and high bands of nursing care. The single band (the flat rate payment) is a contribution towards the cost of services provided by a registered nurse, involving either the provision of care or the planning, supervision or delegation of the provision of care. However, it does not cover services which do not need to be provided or supervised by a registered nurse. All individuals newly eligible for NHS-funded nursing care since 1 October 2007 have been placed on the flat rate. The NHS is responsible for this funding. Accommodation and social care costs are the responsibility of either the local authority and/or the individual (subject to the outcome of a needs assessment and financial assessment). Individuals who were in receipt of the high band of NHS-funded nursing care under the three-band system that was in force until 30 September 2007 are entitled to continue on the high band until:

a) on review, it is determined that they no longer have any need for nursing care;
b) on review, it is determined that their needs have changed, so that under the previous three-band system, they would have moved onto the medium or low bands. In this situation, the individual should be moved onto the flat rate payment;
c) they are no longer resident in a care home that provides nursing care;
d) they become eligible for NHS continuing healthcare; or
e) they die.

ICBs must continue to make NHS-funded nursing care contributions in respect of those individuals who were deemed eligible for this funding prior to 1 April 2013, until such time as any of the circumstances listed above apply.

7.3 The rates currently set out in the 2012 Regulations (as amended), for the 2022-23 financial year, are £209.19 per week for the flat rate payment and £287.78 per week for the high band.

7.4 A decision has been made to increase the rate by 5.0% from the 2022-23 financial year, to reflect wage inflation in the adult social care sector for 2023-24. The wage inflation uplift is based on adult social care data and economic projections for the 2023-24 financial year. This instrument therefore amends the rates set out in the 2012 Regulations to £219.71 per week for the flat rate payment and £302.25 for the high band payment.

8. European Union Withdrawal and Future Relationship

8.1 This instrument does not relate to withdrawal from the European Union / trigger the statement requirements under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

9. Consolidation

9.1 This instrument does not consolidate any legislation.

10. Consultation outcome

10.1 There is no statutory requirement to consult on this amendment.

10.2 There was no formal consultation on the amendment to the rates of NHS-funded Nursing Care.

11. Guidance

11.1 Guidance on NHS-funded Nursing Care is available in the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care July 2022[1] and in the NHS-funded Nursing Care Practice Guidance July 2022.[2]

12. Impact

12.1 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies who provide nursing home services is positive, with an increase in the rate and therefore the money they receive for providing nursing services to NHS-funded Nursing Care eligible individuals from ICBs.

12.2 The impact on the public sector is a negative financial impact on ICBs, who pay NHS-funded Nursing Care rates through their existing allocation.

12.3 A full Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because the rate does not reflect a change in policy.

13. Regulating small business

13.1 This instrument applies to activities that are undertaken by small businesses.

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-framework-for-nhs-continuing-healthcare-and-nhs-funded-nursing-care
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-funded-nursing-care-practice

13.2 To minimise the impact of the requirements on small businesses (employing up to 50 people), the approach taken is that there is a flat rate of funding covering the provision of nursing care by a registered nurse. This is provided regardless of the size of the care home or business, meaning small businesses will not be negatively impacted.

14. Monitoring & review

14.1 The approach to monitoring of this legislation is reviewing annually and updating as required.

14.2 This instrument does not include a statutory review clause.

15. Contact

15.1 Steph Hollox at the Department of Health and Social Care Telephone: 0113 254 5827 or email: fnc@dhsc.gov.uk can be contacted with any queries regarding this instrument.

15.2 Rose Thomas-Willis and Megan Bidder, Deputy Directors in the Adult Social Care Group at the Department of Health and Social Care can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

15.3 Helen Whately MP, Minister of State for Social Care at the Department of Health and Social Care can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.