

GP sickness absence reimbursement – update

On 1st April 2017, changes were made to the GMS contract, affecting the reimbursement practices can claim for GP sickness absence. A further uplift took effect on 1st April 2018.

Reimbursement

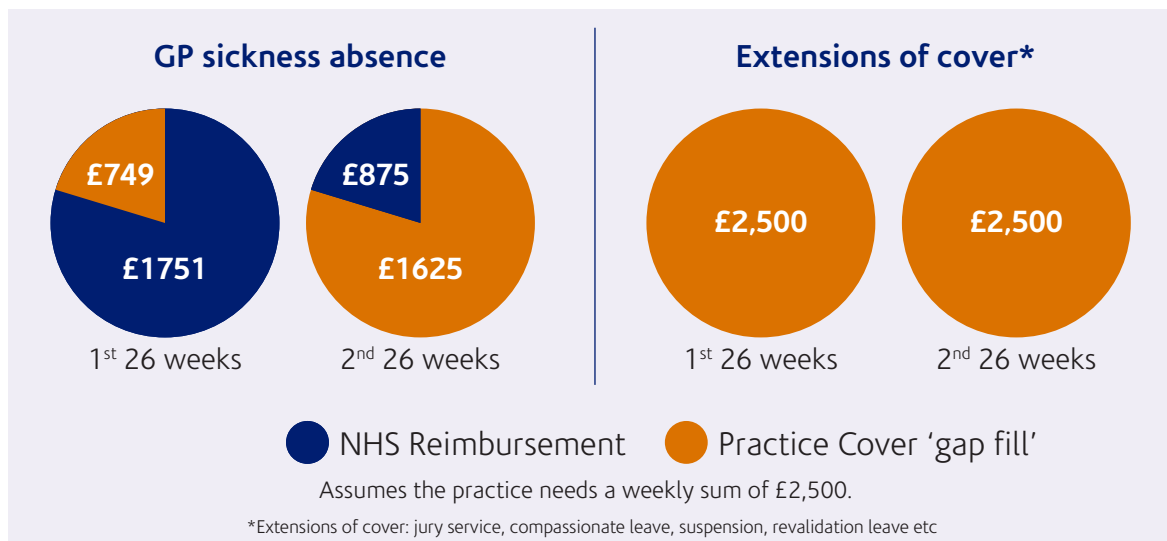
In summary, non-discretionary reimbursement is available as follows:

- the *lower of* invoiced costs and £1751 pw, payable after 2 weeks of absence, for up to 26 weeks
- the *lower of* invoiced costs and £875 pw for the second 26 weeks of absence
- covers all doctors regardless of pre-existing medical conditions
- covers partners and salaried doctors (subject to salary continuing to be paid), but not locums
- covers core hours only
- is subject to aggregation
- cover has to be provided by a doctor ie the practice can't use an Advanced Nurse Practitioner to cover sessions.
- for sessions covered by a salaried GP on a fixed term contract

Our locum insurance

- **is benefit driven:**
 - following a valid claim, the weekly benefit is paid regardless of who covers for the absent GP and regardless of any reimbursement.
- **offers optional cover:**
 - absences due to jury service, compassionate leave, suspension from practice, revalidation leave (none of which is covered by the new reimbursement)
 - staff: nurses, ANPs, HCAs, practice manager, admin staff (none of whom is covered by the new reimbursement)
- **can be arranged on a 'gap fill' basis:**
 - to plug the gaps in the NHS funding.

Gap fill cover in practice



To discuss the issues raised in this guide call Lynda Cox on 023 8051 3286.

