Amanda Raine and Sarah Burke

Southern Derbyshire CCG

First Floor

10 Nottingham Road

Cardinal Square

Derby

DE1 3QT

***Sent by email***

13th December 2016

Dear Amanda and Sarah,

We the Swadlincote Practices note our concern and hesitancy to participate in the proposed new Minor Injuries Specification circulated for consideration within the last few weeks.

Following a period of consideration and consultation with our colleagues we wish to draw your attention to our concerns and ask that you address them before we make a decision as to whether we as individual practices sign up for the proposed Specification.

At the outset, we would wish to be clear that we feel the true home for any minor injuries service DOES lie within a community setting, close to the patient at their point of need as long as it is resourced adequately to meet the patient’s needs in a timely and safe manner.

As an example, under the current arrangements for providing a minor injuries service (remunerated on an activity basis only) in the last financial year Swadlincote Surgery received c.£9000. The new proposed scheme would see our income on a per capita basis at £0.20 per patient list size c. 14,000) fall dramatically to c. £2800. Most of the minor injury work we do falls into the lower category that won’t attract the larger £60 per high level injury payment. This is a similar position for other local practices. At a time when General Practice is under considerable pressure to meet all demands and commitments, we cannot afford to provide the same level of service we have been able to offer our patient under the current arrangements at 30% of the funding revenue.

We do not want to be in a position where we are turning patients away at the front door to attend A&E during winter pressures, but I would challenge you to find any other business model where a business is expected to produce the same quality and access of a service following a 70% reduction in funding.

The difficulty with any minor injury specification is the expectation that the consultation/ treatment will be given in a timely manner in response to such an injury which is inherently unpredictable. As such any funding has to take account of the “spare” capacity that has to be built into our operational structures to accommodate Minor Injuries as and when they arise.

On a wider point, we feel that Swadlincote patients have for a number of years received an inequitable service from our commissioners. The absence of any dedicated Minor Injuries Unit or Urgent care Centre which are freely enjoyed by the patients of Derby City Centre places an increased burden on our surgeries to deliver urgent care which is mopped up for our city centre counterparts by dedicated provision. This is evidenced by the fact that our A&E attendance and OOH usage figures (presented by Dr Penny Blackwell from the Primary Care Dashboard) are higher than other areas of the CCG as A&E in Burton is much closer geographically for our patients than the commissioned Urgent Care Centre in Derby City Centre.

Our recommendations would be as follows:

1. To ensure that no surgery is financially penalised in wanting to provide a safe, caring, effective, responsive and well led minor injuries provision for their registered population. This cannot be done on the suggested funding reduction.
2. To aspire to achieve equity of service provision for Minor Injuries and Urgent Care in Swadlincote as is currently enjoyed buy our colleagues and patients in Derby City Centre. If this is to be a “Place project” we would expect additional funding to bring us “on par” with our neighbours.
3. That if (1) cannot be achieved; surgeries consider very carefully whether their ability to deliver core services to their patients can be maintained on a reduced funding level. If not, the safest decision may be to decline in participating and allow this work stream to be completed in A&E where tariff payments on an activity basis are more adequate.

**This letter is sent for and on behalf of all of the partners of Swadlincote Surgery, Newhall Surgery, Gresleydale Health Centre, Heartwood Medical Practice, Woodville Surgery and Overseal Surgery**

**Cc: Gary Thompson**

**Helen Dillistone**

**Kate Brown**

**Buk Dhadda**

**Paul Wood**

**CCG Governing Body**

**Derby and Derbyshire LMC**