



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 1st September 2020

GMS and PMS regulations changes from October 2020

The amendments to GMS and PMS regulations to commence from October have now been laid before Parliament and [published](#). These mainly bring into force elements of the GP contract agreement from earlier this year. The amendments include:

- Requirement for monthly data submissions to the NHS Digital Workforce Collection
- Requirement to participate in the existing GP appointments data collection
- Requirement for practices to ensure patient registration data is regularly updated
- Removal of patients who move outside of the practice catchment area: the practice is responsible for the patient's care for up to 30 days (unless and until the patient registers at another practice) but is not responsible for home visits or out of hours services during that period.
- A modification to make sure that patients who have previously been removed from a practice list and been put onto a violent patient scheme cannot be permanently refused readmission to a practice list if they have been correctly discharged from that scheme.
- Patient assignment to any practice within the patient's local CCG, rather than within the practice area.
- Patient assignment as part of a list dispersal
- An exemption to the ban on subcontracting a subcontract in order to allow PCNs greater flexibility to deliver the DES
- Final cancellation of CQC registration is a ground for termination of a GMS contract

Impact of delays for cancer patients

Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of the BMA GPC, wrote a letter to the [Sunday Times](#) highlighting the impact of the pandemic on cancer referrals and treatment, following a [Times article](#) which reported that cancer survival rates were expected to fall due to delays in getting urgent referrals or treatment during the pandemic. The letter reads:

'The Institute for Public Policy Research is right to highlight the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on cancer referrals and treatment. Its warnings echo the concerns doctors have been raising for months. In the latest survey for the British Medical Association (BMA), more than half of GPs said they had seen more patients presenting later with conditions than they would normally expect, with cancer symptoms causing them most concern. Yes, the government and NHS must urgently address the huge backlog in non Covid care. Equally, patients should not be put off seeking help when they need it.'

Registering patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate

As reported last week, practices have a contractual obligation to support patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate, as set out in the [NHS England Standard General Medical Services \(GMS\) Contract 2017/18](#). Practices are, therefore, asked to ensure that processes are in place to support this and information on how to do this [here](#).

BMA [guidance page on patient registration](#) has now been updated to reflect this clarification.





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Redacting GP records

In June, BMA GPC wrote to NHSEI to raise concerns over the redaction of records and unintended consequences of any processes put in place to facilitate patient access to records. The letter sought reassurances that a) patients would not be able to view incoming correspondence before a GP has had the opportunity to review it and b) that the workload of GPs should not increase as a result of needing to review individual records and mark consultation notes for redaction. BMA GPC have now received a response outlining what measures have been put in place to mitigate these concerns. BMA GPC also received reassurances that where practices feel granting access to patients' records during the pandemic would have an adverse impact on provision of essential services, they are not required to do so. NHSEI is now reviewing their patient-facing guidance on access to records to reflect these points.

GP workforce data

The latest GP workforce data has been [published](#). In response to this Dr Richard Vautrey said: 'The prolonged and continued decline in the number of FTE GPs in England is a matter of serious concern, but this data is hardly surprising when we consider the immense pressures family doctors are under across the country – both now and long before the pandemic hit. Before Covid-19, GPs were contending with chronic underfunding, rising patient demand, and toppling workloads, all of which has been exacerbated by the virus, with many surgeries going above the call of duty to keep patients safe.

This further drop of 1.4% FTE GPs since March speaks for itself, and yet despite the clear need to do more to attract and retain more GPs, the government have just undermined morale further by failing to use the DDRB recommendations to recognise the incredible work GPs and their teams have done during the pandemic.

Whilst the schemes that we have recently succeeded in introducing, such as the partnership premium, the GP fellowship scheme and the expansion of GP training places may help in the longer term, much more needs to be done to turn these figures around. That's why, as we prepare for a potential second wave, it's therefore never been more important that the Government does far more to value GPs and to ensure general practice has the resources it needs for GPs to keep their patients safe and well'. This was reported by [Pulse](#)

GP appointment data

The [GP appointment data](#) for July was released last week, which show that the number of appointments delivered by practices are continuing to rise towards pre-pandemic levels. Although total figures still remain around 6% down on those for March, the number of same or next day appointments has risen to the highest in the 18 months covered by the dataset, supported by the continued pragmatism and flexibility of practices utilising triage arrangements and remote consultation methods.





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England LMC Conference

The England LMC Conference has been announced to take place on Friday 27th November. The England LMC conference is where policy is made and discussed and as always motions will be put forward from our 5 LMCs. Please let [Ross](#) know if you have any issues you think need debating to influence national policy that you would like us to submit. The deadline for motions to be submitted is Friday 18th September.

The Horizon Programme

In February 2018 the LMC was successful in its bid to NHS England to develop a programme of Formative Peer Review and Professional Development Planning for Practice Managers. Since then the programme has expanded to include Assistant PMs and Admin Team Leaders and most recently a comprehensive Peer Support Programme for new Practice Managers. The programme offers:

- Face to Face Formative Peer Reviews & Professional Development Planning
- Peer Network Meetings
- Coaching & Mentoring
- Peer Support Service (Buddying)
- Training Events

For more information please contact the Horizon Manager, [Toni](#).

‘The Horizon Programme has been an invaluable resource and support. I was very grateful to have an expert on hand who was knowledgeable and professional, had a clear understanding of the challenges I was facing, but also provided practical advice and plans that could be taken forward.’

- PM in Millom

Cyber security insurance

It has come to our attention that medical insurance companies are trying to sell cyber security insurance to practices. Please note you do not need this insurance as you are covered under your IT provider.

UCLan Medical Students

Due to a potential increase in medical student numbers this year The University of Central Lancashire are keen to recruit new practices to host medical students.

They are particularly looking for practices to host years 1 and 2.

If you are interested please email [Dr Matt Orr](#) or email the [admin team](#).

