



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## Contract Agreement for 2021/22

See a presentation by Chair of BMA GPC Dr Richard Vautrey about the contract [here](#). The video and full details of the contract agreement are also available on the BMA [website](#). BMA GPC are also planning to hold some webinars and will provide more details shortly.

## COVID-19 Vaccine wastage

We would like to remind that NHSE/I has made it clear that the top priority is that all vaccines be used and therefore must not be deliberately wasted. All sites should have reserve lists that they can use to make every effort to invite patients or healthcare professionals to ensure that they can make full use of any unused vaccines rather than have any go to waste. Read more about vaccine supply in the [BMA's advice webpage on healthcare worker vaccination](#).

## Access to COVID-19 vaccine for locum GPs

Some GP locums are still uncertain as to where they can get a vaccination. NASGP (National association of sessional GPs) has picked up on this issue nationally – if you are a locum GP, and therefore a frontline health worker, you should either book in with the practice you are registered at or alternatively you can access a vaccination at your place of work. Additionally, salaried GPs should be able to access a vaccine at their place of work.

## Transfer of COVID-19 vaccines

Last week, NHSE/I has published guidance on [Mutual aid and the transfer of COVID-19 vaccines between Hospital Hubs, Vaccination Centres and Local Vaccination Services](#). Annex B of the document sets out that as long as the relevant guidance is followed, local commissioner should be offering a supportive role in facilitating the movement of the AstraZeneca vaccine within a PCN grouping and do not need to seek formal approval for moving the vaccine in line with the arrangements set out in the letter. It also advises that once moved, the vaccine should either be administered or immediately put in a refrigerator at a practice site within the PCN grouping, and ideally administered within 24 hours or as soon as practical over the following days.

## New to partnership scheme

The New to Partnership Scheme was launched in England in July 2020 (backdated to April 2020). NHSE/I has now finalised the S96 contract for GMS practices, which forms the agreement between the practice, the new partner and NHSE/I. This contract has been agreed with the BMA.

Read the BMA guide to applying for the [GP partnership scheme](#), which will help you navigate what can be a complicated application process.





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## NHS Pension scheme access for ARRS staff

There were potential issues with access to NHS pension scheme for ARRS staff employed by GP Federations who might lose their APMS contract as a result of the Extended Access changes (and which cease, therefore, to be an Employing Authority under the NHS pension scheme).

The delay to the formal handover of the Extended Access arrangements to Primary Care Networks (PCNs) until April 2022 means this issue is probably less pressing for many GP Federations than it was a few weeks ago.

Nevertheless, the provisions for GP Federations without a GMS/PMS/APMS contract to apply for temporary access to the NHS pensions scheme for its staff has now been extended until March 2023. That position has now been confirmed in the updated NHS BSA guidance on access to the NHS pension scheme for PCNs – see scenario 3 in [this document](#).

## Updated PCN vaccine planning and progress tracking tool

A new version of the [PCN vaccine planning and progress tracking tool](#) has been launched on the LVS workspace in Foundry. The updated version helps PCNs to plan their COVID-19 vaccination programmes for the AZ and Pfizer vaccines and users to calculate weekly vaccination capacity for each vaccine based on site and workforce scenarios. The tool also enables users to track progress with vaccination, including filters for different cohorts, delivery at each site against plan and progress with cohort coverage for PCNs, grouping population across different delivery methods (LVS, Hospital Hubs, Vaccination Centres). [A user guide is also available \(log in required\)](#)

## CQC activity in Primary Care

Following our update on [CQC's regulatory approach](#) provided on 15 January, and the lobbying on this issue that we have been doing, CQC has written to all CCG primary care leads and NHSE/I regional directors confirming that it will only inspect GP practices in response to significant risk of harm and when it cannot seek assurances through other routes. If an inspection is necessary, CQC will carry out as much activity off-site as possible. Full details are available in the [attached](#) letter.

## GP retention scheme webinar

A [webinar on the GP Retention Scheme](#) will be taking place on Thursday 25 February from 7pm – 8.15pm. BMA GPC will be looking at how the GP Retention Scheme works for both employees and employers, tackling some of the common misconceptions about the scheme and hearing from GPs who are currently on the scheme. There will a Q&A session at the end and you can submit any questions in advance to [cscott@bma.org.uk](mailto:cscott@bma.org.uk). A full list of speakers will be confirmed shortly. Click [here](#) to sign up.





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## LMC UK conference – 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> May

The LMC UK Conference is requesting that motions be submitted to be debated and voted on at this year's conference. The UK conference puts forward motions to give BMA GPC a mandate to negotiate with NHSE (and equivalents in Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland). If you have an issue would like raised at the conference, please inform your local LMC representative or Ross ([ross.mcduff@nwlmc.org](mailto:ross.mcduff@nwlmc.org)) so we can look to compose a formal motion.

## LMC resources for COVID-19

For all other COVID-19 resources the LMC website is regularly updated with correspondence we have put out. Find it [here](#).

## GP support scheme

In these challenging times it is important that we don't forget our GP support scheme. The LMC have GP mentors who provide confidential support to local GPs. Find out more [here](#).

