



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

## GP Pressures

The latest [GP appointment data for June](#) has been released. The BMA have stated that they will be highlighting to the new incoming NHSE/I chief executive that there is a critical need to alleviate the severe pressure GPs and their teams are under.

This also ties with the LMC's recent GP pressures surveys that have gone out across our patch. The LMC is working with CCGs across the area to establish what can be done practically at a local level to help General Practice.

The RCGP has published a [report](#) reinforcing many of the key public messages regularly made by the BMA in recent months including that general practice is now 'at breaking point'. It proposed a five-point recovery plan to prevent GPs and other members of the practice team from burning out and ensure patients can continue to receive the care they need, well into the future. The RCGP described the pressures within general practice as unsustainable and said that they must be urgently addressed as we move beyond the 'emergency' pandemic period. During this time, GPs have to deal with the aftermath of COVID in their local communities, including long COVID, and the additional mental and physical health problems it is causing in patients of all ages.

Additionally, in the coming weeks, the BMA will be sending to practices materials and tools they need to explain to their patients the pressures general practice is facing.

## The GP Voice

Following last week's LMC Brieflet you will shortly be receiving a specific correspondence around the new NHS structures and how you can have your say in how the GP voice is formed. Please look out for this important communication this week and put forward your feedback via the survey link that is shared.

## Flu Enhanced Service Specification

The LMC office have taken time to look at the recently released [Flu ES](#). This guidance seems to broadly align with previous years, with one of the exceptions being the 'over 50s' contingent being included. At this stage the LMC would suggest doing what is felt to be most appropriate for your practice.

## Chief Midwife urges pregnant women to get the NHS COVID jab

Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, Chief Midwifery Officer for England, has written to midwives and GP practices stressing the need to encourage pregnant women to be vaccinated to protect them and their baby. [England's top midwife is urging expectant mums to get the Covid-19 vaccine](#) after new data shows the overwhelming majority of pregnant women hospitalised with the virus have not had a jab. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the Royal College of Midwives





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have both recommended vaccination as one of the best defences for pregnant women against severe COVID-19 infection.

## **GP Payments and pensions system update**

BMA GPC have reported that they are continuing to see an unacceptably high level of issues being raised about the new online portal. BMA GPC continue to liaise with PCSE several times a week, but the progress is frustratingly slow. The survey for GPs in England to provide their experiences of the new system will remain open until 13 August. If you haven't already, BMA GPC would urge you to please [fill out the survey](#) so that we have further evidence of the full extent of the issues and can hold PCSE to account. Note that this survey is not a forum for individual issues – [please raise these with PCSE directly](#).

## **Guidance to support GP practices to obtain a sponsorship licence**

The BMA and NHS England and NHS Improvement have published [guidance to support GP practices obtain a sponsorship licence](#) to recruit a GP from outside of the UK or a UK medical graduate switching from a Tier 4 visa. After hearing from GP practices, it will address the questions that are often raised and is designed to support GP practices to complete the online registration process and identify the right documents to send to the Home Office.

Please note this does not replace the official [Home Office guidance](#).

## **Improving the NWRS (National Workforce Reporting Service)**

NHS Digital has [improved the way they collect primary care workforce data](#) making the new NWRS is easier to use, and as simple and efficient as possible to help minimise the burden placed upon practices and primary care networks.

From July, users should access the new NWRS via the [Strategic Data Collection Service](#) (SDCS) - using the same login you use to complete other data collections, such as the General Practice Annual Electronic Self-Declaration (eDEC). Visit the [SDCS Data Submission site](#) to check that you have access to the new system. If you have never used SDCS, [you will need to register for an account](#).

It is important to understand staff capacity in the health service - this information helps shape GPC's negotiating strategy and how investment, training and resource is directed across the primary care workforce. It is therefore critical that the information you submit to NHS Digital about your staff is accurate and complete. Provision of workforce data is also a contractual requirement for practices and PCNs as it is crucial for understanding changing capacity across the primary care workforce.

To find out more about the changes to the NWRS, Practice and PCN Managers can [join one of NHS Digital's webinars](#) which are running twice weekly until end of August.

