



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## LMC Office Changes

There have been some changes to our LMC office. Jessica Tomlinson, Executive Lead for Central Lancashire, is currently on maternity leave. We all wish her well for her first baby! In the interim, Ross McDuff is covering her role. We also have a new LMC Support Officer, Mikaela George, who will be providing administrative support to the 5 LMCs – Welcome Mikaela! [Meet the LMC team here.](#)

## We Need You - Media Campaign

In recent weeks, GPs and their practice teams have been subjected to a systematic and cruel campaign by sections of the media, which has directly resulted in rising incidences of abuse and aggression being experienced by general practice. This has left many in the profession feeling demoralised and under siege.

The LMC has been working with the ICS to raise awareness to patients of the immense pressure GPs and their staff are under, highlighting how practices have changed their way of working and how abuse is not tolerated. Attached are 5 posters to be used as part of the media campaign for patients. These posters highlight 5 key messages: Be Kind, Keep Going, We are Open 1 & 2 and Why Say No. Please feel free to share and use as you wish.

In addition to this, we need your help to strengthen our media campaign. Please could we have volunteers within Practices to create a short video of themselves talking about current pressures and patient abuse. We appreciate that not everyone in the practice will receive this Brieflet, so we are asking for your support in sharing it to your wider team of both clinical and non-clinical members of staff. The LMC will then collate these videos and distribute across Lancashire & Cumbria. Please get in touch with [Mariah](#) if you are interested in this and she can provide you with more information. Your help will be truly appreciated.

We would like to thank you all for your incredibly hard work to keep up with demand. No matter what the media is saying – you are making a difference for people. Every person you speak to or see is helped by you. Most people appreciate this, it's only a few that don't.

## Consultant support for GPs

The BMA consultants committee are showing their support in their statement published last week, unequivocally condemning the unacceptable abuse against hardworking and dedicated GPs and the general practice workforce – read the statement [here](#).

## NHS 111 Booking into General Practice

During the pandemic a temporary change was made to the requirement for practices to make available to NHS 111 one appointment per 3000 registered patients to one appointment per 500 registered patients. This temporary change has stopped since the end of September 2021 and has now reverted to the contractual requirement 1:3000.





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## Flu vaccinations for primary care contractors and frontline staff

The [Enhanced Service Specification for Seasonal influenza vaccination programme 2021/22](#) has now been published.

The BMA GPC have been able to secure agreement with NHSE/I to the inclusion of all frontline practice staff in the Enhanced Service. All practice staff with patient contact, including both medical and administrative staff, will now be eligible to receive a flu vaccination from their employing practice or the practice at which they are registered as a patient, and practices will receive an item of service fee for their provision. However, we would advise for practice staff to go to their own GP Practice to have their vaccination as patients should not be registered as INT (Immediately Necessary Treatment) due to contractual regulations. We are still querying this nationally. As in previous years, locum GPs will also continue to be eligible for a free vaccination. The provision of flu vaccination to all target groups will, therefore, be covered under CNSGP.

NHSE/I has also [published guidance](#) on the process for recording flu vaccinations administered to patients not registered with a practice.

## COVID-19 vaccinations

### Boosters for health care staff

Health and social care workers can now book their COVID-19 vaccination boosters through the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119.

As part of the booking process, staff will need to self-declare they are a frontline health or social care worker, and they will also be asked to provide as proof of employment as an eligible health or social care worker using a workplace photo ID.

Booster vaccinations can be administered no earlier than six months after completion of the primary vaccine course.

### Medical exemptions

A systematic medical exemptions process has been introduced, 30 September, to ensure that those who, for medical reasons, should not be vaccinated (and/or be tested) for COVID-19 are not disadvantaged across certification use cases.

Given the need for clinical judgement and access to patient records, the Department of Health and Social Care are asking GPs, secondary care clinicians and midwives to assess applications. Steps have been taken to ensure this does not impact workload (e.g., no appointment required, pre-screening process).

Read the [guidance](#) detailing the process and clinical criteria and payment mechanisms (for GPs).





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## Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS)

The Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS) established by NHSE/I and NHS Digital, aims to resolve missing or incorrect vaccination records for people vaccinated in England who have a current NHS number and are registered with a GP practice in England.

A pilot of outbound calls was launched on 3 August to patients identified as having a second dose but where no first dose is showing on the national immunisation database (NIMS). This service continues to operate. An inbound service accessed has also been launched, and referrals to the VDRS can be made via any of the services accessed via 119.

Please note that 119 and VDRS call agents will not provide clinical advice and cannot assist with queries related to vaccinations received overseas. If the query relates to personal information that is incorrect on the patient record (e.g., name, address), these will still need to be resolved by their GP practice. If a member of the public believes they have missing or incorrect COVID-19 vaccination data, they should be advised to call 119.

## **Medicines Delivery Service extension**

An extension of the medicine's delivery service has been announced by NHSE/I. [The announcement letter](#) explains that to help provide support to people who have been notified of the need to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, the Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service and the Dispensing Doctor Home Delivery Service will be commissioned from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 (inclusive) for anyone living in England who has been notified by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate.

## **RCGP/ Project Echo free education programme**

A free monthly virtual education programme for GPs on Post- COVID syndrome, is being launched by the RCGP in association with Project Echo (Northern Ireland) on 7th October from 1900-2030pm.

The sessions will be held monthly, on the first Thursday of the month (1900-2030) and are free. Register for the event(s) [here](#): Each month a different aspect of the condition will be covered, starting on the 7th October with a general overview and 'top tips for GPs', moving on to cover children, older adults, the updated NICE/SIGN/RCGP guidance and much more. As a group, there will also be time to discuss best practice from around the UK, to enable learning from each other and from the patients who will join us to share their stories.

The sessions are for GPs only, aiming to provide a safe space to learn and discuss issues faced in our daily practice.

