



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 6th April 2021

GMS/PMS regulations – pandemic amendments

NHSE/I has confirmed that the temporary changes to the GP contract under the [pandemic regulations](#) which were due to lapse at the end of March have now been extended until 30 June 2021.

As with previously, this means a continued suspension of the Friends and Family Test requirement; a continued suspension of the requirement for individual patient consent for electronic repeat dispensing (eRD); and a continuation of the amendment to NHS 111 direct booking with sufficient slots available for NHS 111 to refer into a triage list; for most practices offering 1 per 3000 as per the pre-pandemic arrangement is likely to be sufficient but this can increase to 1 per 500 if demand requires.

SFE and Global Sum calculation

An official consolidated version of the [SFE](#) (Statement of Financial Entitlements) has been published for 2021. This updates the SFE from the last fully consolidated version from 2013 and includes the amendments made up to the current 2021/22 contract year. The global sum figure has now been finalised for 2021/22 (£96.78) and amended from earlier indicative figures as it now takes into account the full impact of the final MPIG correction factor recycling. The global sum out-of-hours deduction will be 4.75% (£4.59).

DES directions and flu immunisations

The [DES \(Directed Enhanced Service\) Directions](#) have also been published last week. NHSE/I has decided not to include the revised Influenza Immunisation Scheme in this set of DES directions. This is due to the possibility of a COVID-19 booster programme running alongside the flu programme, and the need to look at potential operational considerations for providers. NHSE/I has made a commitment to discuss delivery of COVID-19 boosters and the impact on the flu campaign with GPC England once further information is available.

Note that practices should continue to plan to deliver the 2021/22 flu programme as per the [letter from NHSE/I Medical Director Professor Steve Powis](#).

Network Contract DES 2021/22 and improving General Practice appointment data

NHSE/I has published a suite of documents to support the updated [Network Contract DES 2021/22](#) from 1 April. These documents implement the changes set out in the NHSE/I letter of [21 January 2021, and include a cover not outlining the key changes, the updated Network Contract DES specification and guidance, and other supporting guidance, including a set of FAQs](#).

They have also published [guidance for practices on standard national general practice appointment categories](#) to support the mapping of local appointment slots to these new categories. This follows





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joint NHSE/I and GPC England guidance published in August 2020, which introduced an agreed definition of general practice appointment.

There is also new guidance on PCNs implementing the [Investment and Impact Fund](#) for their practices as per the requirements set out in the Network Contract DES.

Access all the guidance [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccination programme

Vaccinations sites are encouraged to continue their efforts in maximising uptake in cohorts 1-9 during April, focusing on those in the lower cohorts first, which are yet to be vaccinated.

The [JCVI is recommending that adults who are over 16 and living with adults who have weakened immune systems](#), such as those with blood cancer, HIV or those on immunosuppressive treatment including chemotherapy should be prioritised for the COVID-19 vaccine. NHSE/I has [written](#) to practices about the [next steps](#), including a template letter practices can use to inform patients that their adult household contacts are eligible to have the COVID-19 vaccination, and also published [operational guidance](#) to vaccinate this cohort.

A statement is expected shortly from JCVI on details relating to the next phase of vaccination for groups 10-12.

Maximising vaccine uptake in underserved communities

NHSE/I has published a problem-solving [framework to help maximise vaccine uptake in underserved communities](#), setting out best practice and practical guidance for implementing a range of interventions to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination and drive uptake.

Pinnacle now features reporting functionality

Pinnacle has now released reporting functionality in their platform. This move comes after lobbying from both GPC England and the Joint GP IT Committee, calling for a solution to support PCN-led vaccination sites with reporting. To support users with their service delivery Pinnacle have introduced several service reports that can now be accessed from the “Reports” tab. Only users with the “Site administrator – user management” permission will be able to see this tab. Please follow instructions sent out in LVS email. All requests for access to PID extracts will be subject to an approval from Pinnacle on behalf of NHS England. For further queries please contact the National Service Desk: Telephone: 0300 200 1000; Email: vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk





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Shielding for clinically extremely vulnerable to end

As of 1st April, [clinically extremely vulnerable \(CEV\) people in England no longer need to shield](#). CEV patients are still advised to continue to take extra precautions to keep themselves safe, even after receiving both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Read the government guidance [here](#)

Practices are reminded to continue to add and remove patients, as appropriate, from the Shielded Patient List, as it may be necessary to identify this cohort in the future. Information on how to do so is available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

Sessional GP Meeting

Our next Sessional GP Meeting is taking place on the 22nd April via Teams. The meeting will include a Gynaecology update HRT & the menopause presented by Simon Jones – Consultant Gynaecologist.

If you are a Sessional GP and would like to attend please email Rebecca.noble@nwlmc.org

LMC/Non-LMC training events

Don't forget to visit our [website](#) regularly for updated LMC and non-LMC training events.

LMC HR Service

The [LMC HR service](#) is available for practices and PCNs across Lancashire and Cumbria with no contractual commitment. We are aware from some recent enquiries about accessing our service, that where a practice or PCN has previously entered into a contract with another provider of HR services, such as Peninsula, these can contain notice periods if you wish to avoid automatic renewal. We remind you to check such contracts to ensure you are able to leave that service in a timely manner as we're aware some have notice periods as long as 6 months.