



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 7th December 2020

COVID-19 vaccination programme specifications and guidance

Practices are asked to sign up to this Enhanced Service by midnight **tonight** and will be provided at least 10 days' notice of the first vaccines becoming available. Whilst the timeline is very short, this is because Practices need to be ready to deliver vaccinations in the very near future, particularly with the [approval last week of the first COVID-19 vaccination](#) by the MHRA.

We have today reviewed the latest information that was released over the weekend. See our updated Enhanced Services FAQ (Issue 2) attached.

Christmas and New Year period

As highlighted in the [NHSE/I primary care bulletin](#) last week, General Practices are not expected to open for delivery of core services over the weekend and bank holidays for this coming Christmas and New Year period. Local commissioners and primary care providers can therefore continue to plan on the basis of their planned cover arrangements.

This followed the concerns that BMA GPC had raised of the importance of all those working in General Practice needing time off during the Christmas bank holiday to rest after the difficult year we've had.

Guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people

As of 2nd December, lockdown has ended in England and [returned to a regionally differentiated three-tiered system](#). Due to this, the government has sent [a letter](#) last week with updated guidance to all clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people on the Shielded Patient List.

In each tier, there is a set of rules that everyone in that area must follow. The letter, which sets out the new guidance, no longer advises CEV people to stay away from work or school but does suggest limiting the number of social interactions. Read the government's [guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people at each local tier](#).

The DHSC has also announced that people on the CEV list and those in residential and nursing care homes [will receive free winter supply of Vitamin D](#) to help support general health, in particular bone and muscle health, during the winter months, which is even more important for those that have been shielding and may not have been able to obtain enough vitamin D from sunlight.

NHS Digital has published [letter templates for high-risk patients](#) for use by GPs when notifying patients newly identified as clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19.

BMA GPC have also updated their [guidance about clinically extremely vulnerable people](#).





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Accessing your GP animation

To support General Practice, the NHSE/I has created [an animation to help explain to the public how they can continue to access GP services](#), including how to get in contact, the different ways care may be delivered, and how face-to-face appointments have changed.

CQC Review of the use of do not resuscitate decisions during COVID-19

The CQC has produced the [attached](#) briefing clarifying how it will be undertaking a [DHSC requested review](#) of the use of 'do not resuscitate' decisions during COVID-19 (made after 17 March 2020).

Some Practices have already raised concerns regarding CQC 'spot checks' or communications from CCGs. Please note that these reviews are not CQC Practice inspections and reports of review visits will not be published. If CQC do find examples in records which raise concerns about the way DNACPR decisions were made it will feed this back to the Practice and to the CCG. CQC will also provide information to its local CQC inspection team as part of their routine monitoring.

As you may recall, the BMA recently wrote to Matt Hancock calling for an immediate suspension of all CQC inspections and reviews of General Practice (other than those required for serious safety issues) for the duration of the pandemic to enable Practices to focus on other priorities, not least the COVID-19 vaccination programme. This was also reported by [BBC news online](#).

GP trainee's mileage payment

NHS Employers and the BMA have published joint [guidance](#) for the reimbursement of home to principle place of work mileage for trainees in a Practice. The guidance provides information for employing organisations on operationalising the current provisions in the absence of an updated version of the terms and conditions. This is applicable to both back dated and future claims.

