



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Changes to QOF and IIF

NHSEI published a [letter](#) last week announcing changes to QOF and IIF and changes to the COVID vaccination DES. More detail and operational guidance on these changes will be forthcoming in days to come. Read the BMA [press statement](#).

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, has written a thank you [letter](#) to Primary Care, thanking them for their efforts on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Additional funding for COVID vaccination programme

Following the identification of the COVID-19 omicron variant, the government have accepted [JCVI advice](#) to widen the age range for vaccine eligibility to include all 18-39 year olds and to shorten the time from last vaccination to booster to three months.

In addition to this, 12- to 15-year-olds can now receive a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, no sooner than 12 weeks after the first dose. Severely immunosuppressed individuals who have received three primary doses, should also be offered a booster dose.

To support the quicker and larger roll-out of boosters, NHSEI announced earlier last week that there will be some additional funding to support PCN Groupings to step up capacity by:

- Increasing the Item of Service (IoS) fee for COVID-19 vaccinations to £15 from 1 December to 31 January (Mondays to Saturdays)
- Increasing IoS fee to £20 for vaccinations administered on Bank Holidays and Sundays from 1 December to 31 January
- Increasing the supplement for vaccination of housebound patients to £30 from £20 between 1 December and 31 December backdated to 16 September

Although additional funding is being made available, there remains concern about the high workload and lack of workforce capacity in general practice. Given last week's announcement on QOF and IIF, practices may want to consider how they may be able to support the national vaccination effort.

At this critical time in the fight against COVID-19, GPs and their teams want to do all they can to protect and look after their communities, focusing on those most in need. This means finely balancing the clear national priority to deliver booster vaccinations to as many people as possible with ensuring that people who need care and treatment from their GP practice and the wider NHS continue to receive it.

Read the BMA [press statement](#).





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

New COVID-19 Omicron variant – new measures and booster programme extension

Following the reports of a new COVID-19 Omicron variant, the [BMA called for mandatory mask-wearing and social distancing in indoor crowded spaces](#), and that public buildings, offices and hospitality venues have adequate ventilation to disperse the virus as much as possible.

The [Prime Minister then announced](#) new targeted measures to prevent the spread of the new variant which was [introduced on Tuesday 30 November](#), including mandatory mask wearing in shops and on public transport. The public was also encouraged to ensure they get vaccinated, to help protect themselves and others.

A [CAS alert](#) has been sent out to healthcare workers, with advice to continue to follow the national [Infection prevention and control for seasonal respiratory infections in health and care settings for winter 2021 to 2022 guidance](#), wearing face masks for staff and face masks/coverings for all patients and visitors within health and care settings over the winter period.

It also recommends that physical distancing should be at least 1 metre, increasing whenever feasible to 2 metres across all health and care setting, and that it should remain at 2 metres where patients with suspected or confirmed respiratory infection are being cared for or managed. Read the BMA statement [here](#).

BMA report: Weathering the storm

The BMA published a report, [Weathering the storm: vital actions to minimise pressure on UK health services this winter](#).

The report outlines practical recommendations for stemming the winter crisis that health services across the UK are facing. These include calling on political leaders to have honest conversations with the public about the immediate challenges facing health services so that patients and the public alike have the best information possible about how to access safe and appropriate care.

The report calls for urgent and immediate action by government and health service leaders and asks them to do more to:

- Communicate honestly with patients and the public about health service pressures
- Retain existing staff and maximise workforce capacity
- Promote responsible public health policies to keep people safe and healthy and help manage demand on services
- Direct resources to where they are needed most to manage health service demand

Access the report and read more [here](#)





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Joint statement on Inclisiran

The BMA have published a [joint statement](#) with the Royal College of GPs regarding the implementation of [Inclisiran](#) in primary care.

Although the BMA is supportive of innovation of new drugs, there are serious concerns about how this drug is being introduced. The BMA have raised issues about where the long-term responsibility lies when prescribing this drug, and the lack of clarity about where doctors and patients can turn if there are concerns or problems.

There is also an issue of capacity, the lack of clear resources to support the additional work required and how the impact that introducing new treatment plans will have on teams that are already stretched to their limits. The BMA have raised these concerns with NICE and NHSEI.

It is advised for practices to only prescribe these drugs if they feel comfortable.

Read the statement [here](#).

Integrated care systems – primary care

The BMA continues to lobby on a range of issues relating to the Health and Care Bill, including strengthening the involvement of general practice, and the role of LMCs. As part of this the BMA have co-signed a [letter](#) with other representative bodies for primary care, to Ministers and the Health and Care Bill Committee, asking for a commitment from Ministers in Committee that:

- The government honours its commitment for primary care to be represented and involved in decision-making at all levels of the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) including strategic decision-making forums through formalised roles for GPs, dentists, pharmacists, primary eye care and primary hearing care audiologists in Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs)
- These roles are remunerated to ensure parity of availability and voice with NHS Trusts, NHS staff, social care and public health colleagues in strategic thinking and decision-making
- That existing statutory Local Representative Committees, such as LMCs, have the right put forward nominations for those roles
- Transparency and accountability - ICBs and ICPs to be under duty to explain in writing in public when they choose not to heed advice from local primary care bodies.

A [briefing](#) outlining what collectively the BMA want government to do has also been sent to Ministers.

ARRS ROLES

FAO PCN Clinical Directors and Network Managers. Please see document [here](#) regarding ARRS Roles – Guidance on supervision, training, and responsibility which you may find useful.





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

LMC England conference 2021 - resolutions

The resolutions and election results from the Annual Conference of England LMCs 2021 held November 25 and 26 have now been [published](#). Watch recordings of the event:

[Day 1](#) & [Day 2](#)

Read more about the event [here](#).

Professional Associate Recruitment

We are looking for a wide variety of practice team expertise interested in working with us on our Practice Team Support and Development Programme and our resilience programme. This includes PMs, GPs, Nurses & other Health Care Professionals across Lancashire & Cumbria.

There will be a presentation taking place tomorrow, 8th December, from 12:30 to 1:30pm, which will include a Q&A session. Please visit our [website](#) for more information or get in touch with Rebecca.noblett@nwlmc.org to express an interest.

Clinical Waste Update (Lancashire & South Cumbria only)

NHSE have commissioned a new service from a company called Anenta for clinical waste for practices. Anenta are a national company who currently provide this service elsewhere. It is hoped this new service will be an improvement on the existing one.

Practices will gain access to a portal where you can input issues you are having which will be chased up by Anenta. They will also sort out any invoicing queries.

The service is till the end of September 2022, where they will review the service and decide whether to continue using them. There is no extra cost to the practice.

LMC HR Service

Did you know all levy paying GP practices including PCNs in Lancashire & Cumbria can access advice from our experienced HR team?

Contact us on 01772 863806 / hr@nwlmc.org or find out more on our [website](#).

