



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Letter from BMA GPC & RCGP to the Chancellor about funding in General Practice

In the **attached** joint letter to the Chancellor from BMA GPC and RCGP, they stated that the funding currently available is spread very thinly and urged the Government to use the Budget to invest in General Practice. The letter also said: “While vaccination of the first nine priority cohorts is not expected to be completed until at least Easter and the Government’s aim is now to vaccinate every adult over the age of 18 by the end of July, the clinical director funding and the £150 million/£30m per month COVID Capacity Fund are currently only available up to the end of March, and are spread very thinly for multiple purposes.” This was reported by [Pulse](#).

Government evidence to DDRB

The Government and Department of Health and Social Care has published their [evidence to the DDRB](#), which suggests a pay uplift of 1% for those within the remit. Responding to this, the Chair of GP Council, Dr Chaand Nagpaul said, “This is a total dereliction of the Government’s moral duty and obligation to a workforce that is keeping the NHS on its feet and patients alive.” The full statement can be read [here](#).

The BMA has already submitted its evidence to the DDRB, including for UK salaried GPs, all GPs in NI, Scotland and Wales. BMA GPC have not made a submission for GP partners in England and there as there is already a practice funding agreement in place for England which enables a pay uplift of 2.1%.

COVID-19 vaccination programme

Vaccinating cohort 7 and Phase 2 of vaccination programme

Last week, people aged 60-64 ([JCVI cohort 7](#)) were being invited to book an appointment to receive a COVID vaccination. Practice groups should though continue to focus on vaccinating patients in the bigger cohort 6 group. People are being invited to be vaccinated in order of risk, which increases with age. [JCVI has also published a statement](#) advising that during Phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme will be age-based, and proceeding once those in the current cohorts 1-9 have been offered vaccinations, to next invite all those aged 40 to 49 years, followed by all those aged 30 to 39 years, and then finally all those aged 18 to 29 years.

Vaccination deployment

NHSE/I has published a [letter setting out the next steps and key priorities for vaccine deployment](#) plans for weeks beginning 8 and 15 March. These include actions for immediate review, such as ensuring maximum penetration and uptake within the JCVI cohorts, second dose planning and delivery and preparations for vaccination in line with increased supply. All future second dose deliveries will be made 11 weeks after the corresponding first dose, and so practices should now start to book second dose appointments when making first dose bookings.





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Improving social care staff vaccination rates

NHSE/I has also published a [letter](#) about improving social care staff vaccination rates and completion of outstanding first dose vaccinations in older adult care, which asks care providers to work with local partners to ensure social care staff vaccination rates increase further. The letter confirms that the £10 supplement in addition to the Item of Service fee for vaccinations administered to residents and/or staff in older adult care home settings has been extended beyond the end of January. This means that any first doses administered in February onwards will also attract the supplement, as will corresponding second doses.

NHS number and COVID vaccinations

NHSE/I has this week sent a reminder to vaccination sites, that no patient, including NHS staff, require an NHS number or GP registration to receive a vaccination and should never be denied one on this basis, either in person when presenting for a vaccine, or through design of booking systems. Vaccination sites are being asked to ensure this is not the case within their organisation.

If a patient has not been issued with an NHS number, then providers should vaccinate now, record locally via a paper system and ensure that the vaccination event is recorded on Pinnacle at a later date. NHSE/I is working to agree a longer-term solution, but providers should not wait for this before vaccinating. Providers will be advised once a solution is in place so they can transfer the vaccination record on to Pinnacle and be paid for these vaccinations in the next payment period.

Flu vaccination orders and reimbursement

BMA GPC are aware that prior to the publication of the [flu letter for the 2021/22 programme](#), some practices had already placed orders for QIVe vaccines for their 18-64 year old cohort, and are now struggling to change their orders to QIVc as set out in the flu letter. NHS England and NHS Improvement have now confirmed that, given that QIVe is still recommended for the 18-64 at risk cohort, practices should feel confident that they will be reimbursed for any QIVe administered to this group over the 21/22 season if unable to change their orders.

[NHSBSA](#) has also published information for practices administering flu vaccines, about claiming for reimbursement, completing end of season 2020/21 flu vaccine declaration, and guidance around NHSBSA's post payment verification process.





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New to Partnership Payment – Physician associates

As of 1 March, the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#) has been expanded to include Physician Associates. Although there is currently a delay in launching the regulation of this profession, the additional scheme criteria in place is that for those on the [Physician Associate Voluntary Register](#) at the time of application, registration with their professional body will be required at a later date once this is in place. In line with the current eligible professions, applications to the scheme can be made via the [online portal](#).

The [guidance](#) has been updated, and more information including FAQs is available on the [Future NHS platform \(GP career support hub\)](#).

Remote fit notes – please remember to sign them

DWP has asked BMA GPC to remind GPs that, as per previously agreed guidance, they will accept fit notes that are printed, signed, scanned and be mailed to patients. This advice has also been given to employers, who should also be accepting signed, scanned and emailed fit notes. However, DWP is receiving a significant number of unsigned fit notes which they cannot accept, and this results in inconvenience for both patients and GPs. This is a reminder to GPs that fit notes must be signed.

Read more in the Service Provision section of the [COVID-19 toolkit for practices](#).

Senior female GP Leadership webinar

In celebration of International Women's Day on Monday 8 March, BMA GPC are pleased to present senior female GP leaders, talking about their leadership and career journeys, in a [webinar to be held 7– 8.30pm on Thursday 25 March](#). This latest webinar forms part of a series of work from the GPC education, training and workforce policy group. There will be advice, insights and inspirational stories shared to help guide and motivate the future leaders of tomorrow of all genders. Speakers include:

- Dr Samira Anane (GPC Education, Training & Workforce Policy Lead)
- Dr Nikki Kanani (Medical Director for Primary Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement)
- Dr Helena McKeown (Chair of the Representative Body of the BMA)
- Dr Farah Jameel (GPC England Executive Team, GPC Negotiator and Chair Camden LMC)
- Dr Margaret Ikpoh (RCGP Council, Associate Director of Primary Care Hull Medical School)
- Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer (CEO Cambridgeshire LMCs, BMA Deputy Chair UK LMC Conference, BMA Council member)

Click [here](#) to sign up

Please submit advance questions to Cscott@bma.org.uk





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Termination of pregnancy – referral pathway

Following a conversation with MSI UK please see below some information relating to this pathway.

- **Patients do not need a GP referral to access this treatment:** Patients can call directly on 0345 300 8090. Telephone lines are open 24/7 and is free to use. MSI provide clinical advice, support and information about the choices available, and also have interpreters available.
- **MSI are currently offering a telemedicine service for early medical abortions:** the Government recently issued temporary approval of home use for both stages of early medical abortion. Patients will now be screened via telephone and, if they are eligible (i.e. no risks are identified), will be prescribed medication for home use. The patient will have 24/7 access to MSI's free telephone line, where they can request specialist nurse advice where needed. Any at-risk patient with safeguarding needs will continue to be seen face-to-face in clinic with a nurse or midwife. If you would like some more information on MSI's telemedicine service, you can take a look at their webpage. <https://www.mariestopes.org.uk/abortion-services/online-medical-abortion/>
- **MSI are CCG funded,** so patients registered at your practice can access treatment for free at any of MSI's clinics across the UK. A full list of our clinic locations can be found here: <https://www.mariestopes.org.uk/find-us/>

Posters for this service are **attached**.

LMC Partnership Agreement Drafting Service

Please find **attached** an information sheet on our LMC partnership agreement drafting service. This should hopefully answer any questions which you may have if you are thinking of getting an agreement drafted. Having an up to date partnership agreement is more important than ever and protects you as an individual and your practice, identifying responsibilities and obligations of Partners. It is a vitally important document which should be provided to any incoming Partner.

We can provide you with a fully completed agreement based on a template drafted by solicitors for a set fee of £1500. Abi Askew at the LMC is the lead for the service - if you have any questions please email abigail.askew@nwlmc.org

LMC Elections

We have now sent out ballot papers to GPs and PMs in Hyndburn & Rossendale (Pennine Lancashire LMC), Central West (Lancashire Coastal LMC) and Copeland (NEW Cumbria LMC). If you work in one of these areas and have not received a ballot form via email please let us know and we will ensure one gets to you. The deadline for submitting ballots is noon on Monday 22nd March.

