



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 10th August 2021

EMIS IT issues – attached

The attached report and accompanying letter have been put together collectively by a number of CCGs including CCGs across Lancashire and South Cumbria. It follows repeated and long-standing issues raised across practices as a result of the incompetence displayed and frustrations that EMIS raises on a daily basis. Having spoken about this issue multiple times particularly in recent times at our LMC meetings we are pleased that this is being raised at a higher level and hopefully some changes will be made.

We will make practices aware of any further updates as they happen.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2021/22 enhanced service specifications

Following the publication of the [annual flu letter](#) on 17 July 2021, NHSEI has published the two [Enhanced Service Specifications for the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2021/22](#). Practices are encouraged to opt in to the seasonal flu vaccination programme by Monday 16 August.

The service specifications are practice-based and similar to the 2020/21 flu service specification, except they now allow practices to vaccinate certain non-registered patients, including care home staff, in line with the current COVID-19 enhanced service. They may, though, be modified subject to any further JCVI advice or government policy. The enhanced services would be offered to all GP practices providing essential services and would not be capable of amendment by CCGs

It is important to note that we are still awaiting the outcome of clinical trials which will help to determine which vaccine general practice will be using. This could clearly have a significant impact on the practicalities of programme delivery, so it is important that practices are given this information as soon as possible.

Public Health England has updated its [guidance](#) to explain to patients how they can help to protect themselves and their children against flu this winter.

COVID-19 vaccines for 16-17 year olds

The JCVI has [confirmed that 16- and 17-year-olds will be offered a COVID vaccine](#). NHSEI have amended the enhanced service specification accordingly to incorporate 16- and 17-year-olds into cohort 12, and published a [letter](#) outlining details. The updated [COVID-19 enhanced service specification for phases 1 and 2](#) and the [enhanced service specification for phase 3](#) now include the new eligible patients. Practices delivering COVID-19 vaccinations under the phases 1 and 2 arrangements can start vaccinating eligible children and younger people immediately subject to meeting the requirements of the ES.





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

The revised enhanced service specifications clarify that the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice (CNSGP) will provide clinical negligence indemnity cover for all staff engaged by a GP practice under the CNSGP Regulations. Cover under CNSGP is not restricted to a GP practice's registered patients so would apply to the provision of any NHS COVID-19 vaccinations by a GP practice to a person, including where they are not on the registered list of that GP practice.

COVID-19 vaccine dashboard

NHS Digital has developed the GP COVID-19 vaccine dashboard to enable general practices and PCN-led local vaccination services to view the uptake of COVID vaccines of their registered patients. This dashboard is now live and can be [accessed via NHS Futures](#).

The platform aims to enable staff at GP practices to view and understand uptake for all patients registered to practices. Access is controlled by NHS smartcard and is subject to an organisation and role code B0360 being available for relevant organisations on a user's smart card. The dashboard provides contact information for registered patients who are eligible for the vaccine and have not received their first dose, and those whose second dose is pending or overdue.

It is an optional tool to help practices to support patients in the vaccination rollout in local communities.

NHS COVID-19 app updated to notify fewer contacts to isolate

The Department of Health and Social Care issued a [press release](#) urging the public to continue using the NHS COVID-19 app as changes had been made which would result in fewer close contacts being advised to self-isolate. Please see an explanation of the risk algorithm of the NHS COVID-19 app [here](#).

Changes in visa sponsorship for trainee GPs

The BMA has [written](#) to the minister responsible for workforce, Helen Whately MP, to ensure adequate support is being given to international GP trainees on completion of training to find employment with a licensed sponsor. The BMA are asking that the DHSC work with the Home Office to take action to ensure a long-term solution is found to support future cohorts of doctors.

Fit notes

Now that many COVID-19 regulations are being relaxed, practices are reminded that DWP Medical Certificates should normally be issued only following evidence of a related consultation with the patient.

Appraisal payments

Following the BMA's submission to the DDRB, and the recommendation of a 3% uplift for GP appraiser pay and trainers grants being accepted by government, NHSE/I has confirmed the [standard appraisal fee](#) will be uplifted by 3% and applied from 1 April 2021. It is anticipated that the September 2021





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

payment will reflect the new recalculated fee and include back payments for appraisals undertaken and paid.

Improving NWRS (National Workforce Reporting Service)

NHS Digital has [improved the way they collect primary care workforce data](#) making the new NWRS is easier to use, and as simple and efficient as possible to help minimise the burden placed upon practices and primary care networks.

From July, users should access the new NWRS via the [Strategic Data Collection Service](#) (SDCS) - using the same login you use to complete other data collections, such as the General Practice Annual Electronic Self-Declaration (eDEC). Visit the [SDCS Data Submission site](#) to check that you have access to the new system. If you have never used SDCS, [you will need to register for an account](#).

