



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Increased SitRep reporting (For Lancashire & South Cumbria only)

From 6th January the ICS (Lancashire & South Cumbria) are asking practices to report your pressures and staffing absences daily by 10.30am via your SitRep submission process. Please note, Morecambe Bay Practices contact the CCG primary care team, and they complete the sit rep for you if you have any issues. This should be for a limited time only (anticipated to not go beyond the end of January 2022 and with weekly reviews).

The LMC would encourage Practices to submit these returns daily. This information will be fed through to system leaders so that there is a mutual understanding of pressures in all areas. It is important for the ICS and your local PBP to fully understand the pressures you are facing so that, where possible, you receive any available support.

Self-isolation and access to PCR and lateral flow tests

The self-isolation advice for people with COVID-19 has changed, and it is now [possible to end self-isolation after 7 days](#), following 2 negative lateral flow test (LFT) taken 24 hours apart.

The same [advice also applies to Health Care Professionals](#), however, there are reports of lack of access to PCR and lateral flow tests, which is likely to be due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. The [Health Security Agency announced](#) that from today (11 January), people who receive positive lateral flow device test results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately but won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. Here is a helpful [link and flowchart](#) that is being kept up to date.

NHSEI Guidance on assessment of COVID 19 patients in General Practice

With high numbers of symptomatic COVID patients, NHSEI has now released some guidance on assessment, monitoring and treatment of symptomatic patients in General Practice and 111, which you can find [here](#). The guidance seeks to pick up the items below and explains them in more detail.

DHSC's [requirement](#) for vaccination as a condition of employment

Unvaccinated individuals will need to have had their first dose by 3rd February, to have had their second dose by the 1 April 2022 deadline. NHSEI have [released this guidance](#).

Sessional GP Meeting – Safeguarding

The next Sessional GP meeting is taking place Wednesday 26th January at 7pm via Microsoft Teams. This will be a Safeguarding event delivered by Dr Amy Lee. Safeguarding named GP, Morecambe Bay. Please get in touch with [Rebecca](#) if you would like to attend.





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Hospital discharge and support for general practice and community care

The BMA GPC have repeatedly raised concerns about capacity constraints impacting patient safety in the community. NHSEI issued a letter - [Preparing the NHS for the potential impact of the Omicron variant and other winter pressures](#). The BMA GPC are disappointed over the letter because their priority to 'maximise capacity across acute and community settings, enabling the maximum number of people to be discharged safely and quickly and supporting people in their own homes' didn't seem to provide any credible details on how additional capacity in the community was being created to cater for this new activity.

The BMA GPC have since [written to NHSEI](#) formally to highlight concerns about lacking capacity in the community.

New annual leave guidance for employers of salaried GPs

This newly published [guidance](#) produced by the sessional GP committee provides advice to the employers of salaried GPs to ensure that the process for processing and allocating annual leave is fair, transparent and flexible. The LMC have reviewed it from a HR perspective and the guidance offered does appear generally constructive in terms of the management of annual leave in a variety of situations. In that context it might provide a useful aid to Practice Managers.

End of year pension certificates

The deadline for submitting End of Year pensions certificates is 28 February 2022 for the year 2020/21. Please see [here](#) for more information.

Doctor magazine

The Doctor magazine is producing a feature – potentially a series of features – for upcoming issues of the magazine looking at the increasing pressures GPs are facing and the impact this is having on the profession and patient care. Peter Blackburn – the magazine's senior journalist – would like to speak to GPs who have made the decision to leave the profession, doctors who have given up sessions or taken early retirement, GP partners who have stepped back from partnership or staff who have been involved in handing contracts back. Peter would also like to speak to GPs who may be able to share personal experiences which would help demonstrate to the public, national NHS bodies and the Government the severe impact that working pressures are having on the wellbeing and working and personal lives of doctors and, ultimately, the communities GPs serve. The feature will be used to lobby those who hold sway over doctors' lives and raise awareness. If you are interested in speaking to Peter – or can recommend a colleague/former colleague who may be able to speak about these issues, please contact pblackburn@bma.org.uk.

