



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 14th December 2020

COVID-19 vaccination programme implementation

NHSE/I has [written to the initial sites](#) to set out the requirements, and have said they will be given full support to mobilise within the timescale. They have also outlined all the equipment that will be provided free to designated sites, in addition to the £20m provided to cover other additional costs. This followed the publication of an updated version of the [Enhanced Service Specification](#) for the delivery of the CVP, to include modifications following discussion with MHRA and to ensure patients from non-participating practices can be provided vaccinations. There will be further updates to reflect the new requirement by MHRA for a 15 minute observation period following giving the vaccine. BMA GPC have said they would expect CCGs to work with and support practice groups should there be a need to review the premises arrangements to accommodate this new requirement.

NHSE/I has published an updated [collaborative agreement](#) on Friday 11 for the use by practice groups. The LMC was written a guide to this agreement which you can find [attached](#).

In order for vaccinations to be delivered promptly and as matter of priority, practices will need to re-prioritise other work and NHSE/I have now been clear that they can offer an urgent-only service whilst vaccinating practice teams are involved in the programme.

University of Oxford / AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine trial data

The [data from Phase III of the University of Oxford / AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine trial](#) has been published which provides further good news in that it suggests that this vaccine could prevent asymptomatic disease, and we look forward to the trial to be completed. The data is promising, particularly as we know that this vaccine can be stored at fridge temperature and can be more easily be delivered in primary care. Read the Wellcome Trust statement [here](#).

2019/20 annual allowance charge compensation scheme

Following significant pressure by the BMA, NHS England and NHS Wales introduced the annual allowance repayment scheme last year, which guarantees that any annual allowance tax charge in 2019/20 for eligible clinicians will be compensated for at the time of retirement.

If an eligible clinician who is a member of the NHS England and Wales pension scheme incurs an annual allowance tax charge, they **must elect to pay this via scheme pays**. The formal scheme pays deadline is 31 July 2021, however, members are encouraged to complete the forms as soon as possible, preferably by 31 December 2020 (to minimise any interest applicable).

As the deadline is fast approaching, and to help members, the BMA has produced a [template letter](#), to be submitted alongside the [scheme pays election form](#). You will then need to complete the [2019/20 Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy Form](#). Find more information on how to apply, as well as resources for employers, FAQs and infographics, on the [NHSE/I website](#).





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Ethnicity data

The GMS regulation amendments for recording of ethnicity information have been laid and will come into force from *1 January 2021*. This follows the significant impact COVID-19 has had on BAME people and the need to have better quality data to support the most effective healthcare planning.

This amendment places a requirement on practices to record ethnicity data provided by a patient when a practice asks for this. Read the Statutory Instrument and the Explanatory Memorandum [here](#).

EU Exit update – medicines supply continuity letter

The NHSE/I has published a [letter](#) from Dr Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England, with an update on EU Exit on 31 December 2020, specifically on medicines supply continuity. The letter sets out that:

The DHSC guidance is that it is not necessary for local providers, whether in hospitals or primary care, to stockpile medicines or for clinicians to write longer prescriptions for patients. Unnecessary stockpiling puts more pressure on the supply chain and can risk additional pressure on the availability of medicines in other parts of the country. Prescribers and pharmacists should explain to patients that they should continue to order their prescriptions as normal.

Workforce data reminder

A reminder that NHS Digital will extract the latest general practice workforce data from the [National Workforce Reporting System \(NWRS\)](#) on **Thursday 31 December**. Practices and PCNs should review their records and make any updates, including recording GP locums (practices) or commissioned services (PCNs), before then. This is a contractual requirement and a prerequisite for access to the COVID Capacity Expansion Fund, and important for planning for workforce supply, data which the BMA also uses in our lobbying. Information on how to register and the latest [workforce statistics](#) are available on the [NHS Digital website](#).

Investment and impact fund 2020/21 – reminder to sign up to PCN CQRS service

The Investment and Impact Fund represents a significant source of income for PCNs and to calculate this, NHSE/I measures PCN performance against indicators defined in the [2020/21 Network Contract DES](#), by using data extracted from practice systems via the [Calculating Quality Reporting Service](#).

In order for practices to record their performance against these indicators, commissioners must have offered them the PCN service on CQRS. If they do not, PCNs containing these practices risk not receiving IIF funding this year, *so if your practice is not signed up to this service, please contact your CCG as soon as possible to ensure that it is offered.*

More information can be found on [NHS Digital's website](#) and for any questions about the service, please contact england.gpcontracts@nhs.net.





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LMC equality survey

A quick thank you to those who had chance to fill out our online survey. We are now taking the time to analyse these responses.

LMC Website

As mentioned in previous Brieflets our new website is now live – www.nwlmcs.org. Our website is regularly updated with advice and guidance along with the latest training information.