



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

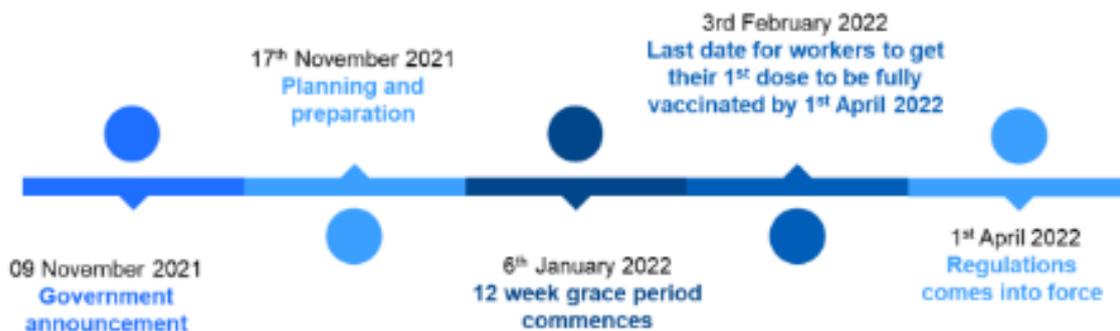
## Crib Sheet – Communications to patients

We sent a 'crib sheet' out yesterday following the Prime Minister announcement Sunday night which may help you manage queries from patients. You can access the [crib sheet on our website](#).

Following the NHSEI webinar yesterday, we are still waiting for further official guidance which should be published at some point today.

## Vaccination as a Condition of Deployment (VCOD) for Healthcare Workers

Following the announcement from the DHSC on the 9th November 2021, making COVID vaccinations a condition of deployment in the health and adult social care settings (domiciliary and other CQC regulated settings) [guidance](#) has been received providing an indicative timeline outlining the dates of key actions as they stand at present. Subject to parliamentary passage – dates below may change:



The LMC are working on the assumption that the conditions are likely to apply to all staff in General Practices, except in exceptional circumstances (including those who are medically exempt; under 18 years of age; do not have contact with patients; or are a participant in a clinical trial investigating COVID-19 vaccination). Further details on exemptions will be detailed within the DHSC Code of Practice which the NHS is expecting to be published imminently.

Please contact the LMC HR service for more advice and guidance on the matter – [stevie.simpkin@nwlmc.org](mailto:stevie.simpkin@nwlmc.org)

## Temporary GP contract changes to support Winter pressures and the COVID-19 Vaccination program

NHSEI published a [letter](#) announcing changes to QOF and IIF and changes to the COVID vaccination DES. We created a document which sets out the highlighted points of the actions for GPs, PCNs and teams to consider. We emailed this out on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December but can also be accessed on [our website](#). More detail on the operational guidance on these changes has now become available – please see [here](#).





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## Pandemic response – Plan B

It is important to reiterate that the current [guidance on isolation and infection prevention and control](#) remains in place. The main amendments include face masks becoming compulsory in most public indoor venues, NHS Covid passes to be mandatory in specific settings, using a negative test or full vaccination via the NHS Covid Pass, vaccines and testing to remain the best line of defence and people are being asked to work from home if they can.

A reminder to colleagues of the recently updated [infection prevention and control \(IPC\) guidance](#) published by the UK Health Security Agency, issued jointly by the DHSC, NHSE and the devolved nations' public health departments. It covers seasonal respiratory viruses and supersedes the previous COVID-19 specific guidance.

The BMA are working with RCGP on updating their joint [workload prioritisation document](#).

The BMA responded to the prime minister's announcement on Wednesday 8 December that the Government will be implementing Plan B for dealing with COVID and the Omicron variant. [Read more.](#)

## UK's most vulnerable people to receive lifesaving COVID-19 treatments in the community

The Government announced that thousands of the UK's most vulnerable people will be among the first in the world to access lifesaving, cutting-edge antiviral, and antibody treatments from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

A national study called [PANORAMIC](#), run by the University of Oxford in close collaboration with GP hubs, has now launched and is recruiting around 10,000 UK patients at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 to have the opportunity to take the treatment molnupiravir at home after receiving a positive PCR test.

Those at highest risk who test positive for the virus – for example, people who are immunocompromised, cancer patients or those with Down's syndrome – will also be able to access either molnupiravir or the novel monoclonal antibody Ronapreve outside of the study from 16 December 2021. See [here](#) for more information.

## Call for Lancaster Medical Student Undergraduate GP placements

Lancaster University are needing more Y3 GP placements for their medical students from the end of January 2022 – Please see [attached](#) document for further details.

## UCLan Postgrad Courses to help develop your career or medical team

The School of Medicine at the University of Central Lancashire offers a wide range of post-qualification and professional courses delivered in collaboration with service providers and patients. For more information please see [here](#).





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## NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme

It was the one-year anniversary last Wednesday for the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination program. Since its inception, GPs, and their teams all over the country have played a pivotal role in rolling out at pace the most successful vaccination campaign to date. The NHS has delivered over 100m doses in just 12 months, including 18m booster jabs. The lion's share of this vaccination program has been delivered by General Practice. It's been a massive undertaking at significant personal costs for many of you, a huge team effort delivered in partnership with your communities. In coming days and weeks many of you will continue to step up to the national priority of boosting this country through a surge of Omicron. Thank you for all that you have achieved and all that you will continue to do for your communities and for this nation.

To support you in this national effort, changes to the vaccination schedule now allow greater flexibility to move vaccines to individual practices.

### Moving vaccines within a PCN grouping

Considering the need to rapidly expand capacity, the MHRA has expanded the circumstances in which the COVID-19 vaccine may be moved from a PCN Grouping's designated site(s) to another location.

GP practices within a PCN Grouping may move COVID-19 vaccine from their Designated Site to collaborating individual GP practices within the PCN Grouping to increase the possibility of opportunistic administration of the vaccination to increase take up of the vaccine. Movement continues to be subject to:

- all requirements and guidance on the movement, storage and handling of COVID-19 vaccines being adhered to;
- there being no onward movement of the vaccine. For example, it is not permitted for a PCN to transport the COVID-19 vaccine from the PCN Grouping's designated site(s) to a collaborating individual GP practice and then onto a pop-up site or care home etc; and
- the arrangements being reflected in the PCN Grouping's Collaboration Agreement

The NHSE template [Collaboration Agreement](#) has now been updated to reflect these changes.

### NHSEI workforce staff survey development

The NHSEI workforce team has commissioned Picker, an independent health and social care research charity, to develop a new [questionnaire for the Primary Care Staff Survey Pilot](#). They are looking for volunteers (both clinical and non-clinical staff) to make sure the questionnaire is clear, easily understood, and relevant to staff working in General Practice and Primary Care Networks.

Find out more [here](#) or contact [volunteer@surveycoordination.com](mailto:volunteer@surveycoordination.com) to register your interest.





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## New to Partnership Payment Scheme (N2PP)

This will be extended into the 2022/23 financial year. Following a review of the timeframe to apply for the scheme, and in acknowledgement of the challenges the deadline presented to busy new partners as well as the additional pressures created by the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSEI has removed the six-month deadline, including for submitted applications that meet all other eligibility criteria. When the scheme comes to an end, there will be a cut-off deadline after the scheme closure date by which applications from eligible individuals must be submitted, and NHSEI will give advance notice of this.

NHSEI continues to encourage all individuals who have commenced in an equity share partnership on or after 1 April 2020 to submit their application as soon as they can after they become eligible. They are now reviewing all applicants this affects and updating their guidance to reflect the changes. Read [NHSE/I's primary care bulletin](#)

## **NHS England and NHS Improvement – Pension Response Project**

People Directorate along with pension partners Isio are delivering 7 multi-region seminars on **pensions tax** in December 2021 and early January 2022, for **consultants and General Practitioners aged 50+ only**. Please note the content of the seminar will address many issues relevant to GPs when they are considering retiring and taking their pension but Isio will not be able to answer questions about an individual's circumstances and benefits. Booking links below:

- [16 Dec 11am multi-region \(consultants and GPs aged 50+ only\) pensions tax](#)
- [16 Dec 3pm multi-region \(unrestricted – ideally consultants and GPs aged 50+\) pensions tax](#)
- [11 Jan 11am multi-region \(consultants and GPs aged 50+ only\) pensions tax](#)
- [11 Jan 3pm multi-region \(consultants and GPs aged 50+ only\) pensions tax](#)
- [12 Jan 11am multi-region \(consultants and GPs aged 50+ only\) pensions tax](#)
- [12 Jan 3pm multi-region \(consultants and GPs aged 50+ only\) pensions tax](#)

## **Sessional GP meeting**

The next Sessional GP Meeting will take place Wednesday 26th January 2022 7pm-9pm, via Microsoft Teams. This will be a Safeguarding event delivered by Dr Amy Lee. Safeguarding named GP, Morecambe Bay. If you would like to attend, please get in touch with [Rebecca](#).

## **Domestic abuse learning events**

NHSEI North West Region Safeguarding team will be hosting two Domestic Abuse Learning Events via Microsoft Teams - 12 January 2022 and 03 February 2022.

For more information, please see the [attached flyer](#).

