



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 15th February 2021

COVID-19 vaccination programme

Last week, [eligible patients \(70 or over\) who have not yet heard from their practice or received a letter and have not yet taken up a vaccine offer](#), were invited to contact the [online booking service](#), call 119 or contact their GP practice directly. This aims to catch patients who may have been missed or did not respond to previous communications.

If sites have completed vaccinating JCVI groups 1-4, sites are permitted to offer appointments to people in cohort 5 and 6 instead of risking wastage.

Practices have also been asked to contact their clinically extremely vulnerable patients, who are shielding, to ensure they have been offered the vaccine.

Vaccination of frontline health and social care workers

NHSE/I has [written to commissioners](#) this week asking for reassurance that the offer of a vaccination frontline health and social care workers, as priority cohorts, has been fulfilled.

Practices are encouraged to liaise with local system partners to ensure that any staff who have not yet been offered a vaccine are offered one, including any locum GPs they are in regular contact with, as soon as practically possible.

[Social care workers](#) are now able to, for a limited period until 28 February, to self-book a vaccination at a vaccination centre or community pharmacy led local vaccination service [online](#).

Transport of AstraZeneca vaccine to GP practices within the PCN grouping

The NHSE/I has confirmed that the [SPS SOP](#) (Standard Operating Procedure) has been updated to make clear that the Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine does not need to be used immediately after being transported within the PCN grouping. The SOP states:

1.1.2. The vaccine should be used as soon as it is received or immediately put in a refrigerator to be administered as soon as possible thereafter. *This has been defined as meaning within 24 hours or over the following days.*

Freeing up practices to support COVID-19 vaccination

NHSE/I has written to practices and commissioners providing further measures [on freeing up practices to support COVID-19 vaccinations](#), following their [letter of 7 January 2021](#). The letter sets out the arrangements for additional funding for PCN clinical directors, and income protection arrangements for the Minor Surgery DES and QOF (Quality and Outcomes Framework).





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Government White Paper on NHS reform and Integrated Care Systems

The Government has now published [‘Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all’](#) – it is a white paper on new plans to reform the NHS, including proposals to make ICSs statutory and make major changes to way services are procured.

Chaand Nagpaul, Chair of BMA council, has released a [strong statement on the white paper](#), stressing the need for clinicians to be at the heart of any changes. The BMA will be producing a summary of the white paper for members shortly.

The proposals set out that GPs will be one of the few required members of the ICS leadership, and that there will be a lot of flexibility around how ‘place’ level (former CCG) working is organised and works, so there is a key role for LMCs to engage in that to help shape it. Please be assured the LMC is engaged and involved in the development of the ICS and will continue to be through this process.

Contract Agreement 2021/22 webinar

Following the recent [contract agreement for 2021/22](#), we will be holding two contract virtual roadshows/webinars on the following dates:

24th February – 19.30-20.30

25th February – 12.30-13.30

Register [here](#) - A recording of the webinar will be available on the BMA website after the event.

Assessments carried out for detention under the mental health to take place in person

Following a [ruling in case](#) bought by Devon Partnership NHS Trust against the Secretary of State, NHS England has issued directions to all mental health providers [not to carry out any assessments for the purposes of determining whether or not an individual should be detained under the act remotely](#) (by any medium). This applies to all members of a medical team involved in the decision and should be considered as the overriding guidance until further notice.

Amendments to European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) and S1 forms Regulations

There have been some minor amendments to the GMS and PMS regulations relating to European Health Insurance Cards (EHICs) and S1 forms, to allow for reciprocal healthcare arrangements with EU member states.

The change has been made via the [Reciprocal and Cross-Border Healthcare \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#) which support the process of EU exit. The amendments are within the contract regulations that govern *information relating to overseas visitors* (GMS regulation 74F and





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PMS regulation 67F) – where, if patients choose to provide EHIC, S1 or PRC details on registration, then GPs must forward those details to NHS Digital or NHS BSA.

The new wording allows for the possibility that, on registration, patients may in future submit other (unnamed) documents which are equivalent to EHICs or S1s, which could be required as part of a “listed healthcare arrangement” between the UK and an EU/EEA country (or the EU). However, at present, the UK government has not agreed any listed healthcare arrangements which establish EHIC or S1 equivalent documents, so for now there is no possibility of patients submitting them.

GP Retention Scheme webinar

A [webinar on the GP Retention Scheme](#) will be taking place on *Thursday 25 February* from 7pm – 8.15pm. BMA GPC will be looking at how the GP Retention Scheme works for both employees and employers, tackling some of the common misconceptions about the scheme and hearing from GPs who are currently on the scheme. Speakers include:

- Samira Anane, chair (GP and GPC policy lead for Education, training and workforce)
- Naureen Bhatti (Health Education England)
- Katie Bramall-Stainer (Retained GP)
- Jonathan Rial (Retained GP)
- Paula Wright (Sessional GPs Committee)
- Tim Morton (GPC)

The session will be of interest to GPs who are considering applying to join the scheme or who would like to know more about it, GP employers and practice managers who would be interested in employing a retained GP and existing Retained GPs who have questions about the scheme or would like to hear some perspectives from other retained GPs and employers.

The webinar will be recorded and will be made available to view on the BMA website during the following week. There will a Q&A session at the end and you can submit any questions in advance to cscott@bma.org.uk. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Gifts guidance

LMC Guidance around receiving gifts is [attached](#). More information can also be found [here](#).

LMC Elections

All five of our committees are currently going through an election process. GPs across Lancashire and Cumbria should now have received information relating to their LMC. If you feel yourself or a colleague would be suited to this role, please consider standing for election and respond to our election correspondence, the deadline to respond is Monday 22nd February.

