



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 16th March 2021

COVID-19

Amended COVID-19 vaccination programme specification

The LMC this week produced a guidance document on the amended specification that has been sent to all practices in Lancashire and Cumbria. It is also **attached** to this email.

Vaccinating cohort 8

Last week, [people aged 55-59 \(JCVI cohort 8\)](#) were being invited to book an appointment via the [National Booking Service](#), to receive a COVID vaccination. Practice groups should continue to focus on vaccinating patients in cohorts 6 and 7 first.

As of 11 March, vaccine supply should have increased substantially and should be sustained at a higher level for several weeks. Therefore, as from this week, vaccination sites are being asked to deliver around twice the level of the limited vaccine supply available this week.

Patients ordering PCR tests without symptoms

Patients are now able to order a PCR test without having any symptoms, and the [COVID-19 PCR test booking webpage](#) includes an additional reason for getting a test, to make it easier for patients to book a test when recommended by a GP.

This aims to support patients in accessing testing where they have been instructed to by a GP, no matter what their symptoms are. No referral is required to book a test under this option.

COVID-19 assisted lateral flow device test results to GP records

Positive assisted lateral flow device (LFD) test results will shortly be sent to GP records, including historic results (assisted refers to LFD test results being interpreted and reported by a trained operative at a test site).

This does not apply to unassisted LFD tests which are self-administered, interpreted and reported by the individual, such as LFD tests that primary care staff are regularly undertaking twice weekly. Negative and void assisted LFD tests and all unassisted tests will not be flowed to GP records.

There is no action for practices following receipt of these LFD results and no need for GP practices to report them to PHE as a notifiable disease.

Guidance for QOF payments

BMA GPC have now published [guidance about QOF payments for 2020/21](#). Due to the pandemic, these payments will be calculated differently to normal. Some indicators are based on achievement, some are awarded in full and some will be income protected.





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Income protection is based on achievement in previous years but updated for the 2020/21 QOF point value, prevalence and list size adjustment. Therefore, it is not the case that practices will have a floor for payments equal to payments in previous years – it will be a different calculation.

Read the NHSE/I letter and QOF guidance for 2021/22 [here](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has published the [amended QOF SFE for 2020/21](#).

Vaccination and Immunisation guidance

NHSE/I has published a [letter confirming the changes to the provision of routine vaccination and immunisation \(V&I\) in general practice](#) from 1 April 2021, which includes:

- The provision of V&I services becoming an essential service for all routine NHS-funded vaccinations with the exception of childhood and adult seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The introduction of five core contractual standards to underpin the delivery of immunisation services.
- A single item of service fee for all doses delivered in vaccination programmes funded through the GMS contract, including where additional doses are required to meet clinical need and where children are vaccinated outside the routine schedule.
- The Childhood Immunisation Target DES will be retired on 31 March 2021 and a new V&I domain in the Quality and Outcomes Framework introduced for 2021/22.

BMA GPC are expected to publish further guidance on this shortly.

Workload prioritisation

We would like to remind practices of BMA GPCs joint [guidance with RCGP on workload prioritisation for primary care](#), which sets out what practices should consider doing in a national lockdown.

The LMCs guidance published on the 11th January can also be found on our website [here](#).

Locum income support

The recent budget announcement included an extension of the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) to provide self-employed individuals with a grant (up to a total of £7,500) to cover lost earnings due to COVID-19 through February, March and April of this year. If you've been operating as a locum during this time and have seen your income impacted by the pandemic you may be eligible for this grant.

Applications will open in April. To check your eligibility, the full list of criteria and details on how to apply is available on the [gov.uk website](#)





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Everyday sexism survey

Last Monday, we celebrated International Women's Day and its theme this year of 'choose to challenge'. The BMA has launched a new survey which aims to tackle sexism in medicine by exploring what doctors have experienced or witnessed. Sexism, sexist practices, gender bias and discrimination have a negative impact on the whole workforce. The results of the survey will be used to support the BMA's work in creating a fair and inclusive culture which gives doctors and medical students equal access to opportunities, free from prejudice and discrimination. Doctors of all genders are invited to complete this [survey](#).

Senior female GPs Leadership webinar

In celebration of International Women's Day this month, BMA GPC are holding a webinar of senior female GP leaders, talking about their leadership and career journeys, in a [webinar to be held 7-8.30pm on Thursday 25 March](#).

There will be advice, insights and inspirational stories shared to help guide and motivate the future leaders of tomorrow of all genders, as well as an opportunity to submit questions as part of the Q&A panel discussion.

Click [here](#) to sign up

NHS pensions scheme webinar for Sessional GPs and Locums

The BMA's Sessional GPs Committee recently held a webinar about navigating through the NHS Pension scheme, to guide through the process and highlight the key things you need to know and do.

You can now watch the webinar [here](#) to learn about Locum A and B forms, Type 2 forms, how to access PCSE, how to raise complaints and how to raise escalations amongst other key topics. The BMA also provide practical advice to guide you through the process.

The BMA's Pensions committee also held four webinars last month about [the unlawful age discrimination](#) that resulted when transitional protection was offered to older but not younger members when the 2015 NHS pension scheme was introduced. Guidance about this will be published in due course. Read more about pensions [here](#)

Discharge medicines service

The Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) became a new essential service within the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) on 15 February 2021. NHS Trusts are now able to refer patients who would benefit from extra guidance around new prescribed medicines for provision of the DMS at their community pharmacy. Read more about its introduction and implications for general practice, in a [briefing by the PSNC](#) (Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee).

