



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 16th November 2020

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine trial is the first of a number of potential vaccines that could become available in the coming months. Read the [BMA press release – ‘encouraged by vaccine ‘breakthrough’ which brings ‘widespread protection a step closer’](#).

The BMA negotiated [arrangements](#) for General Practice to be given the opportunity to lead delivery of the vaccination programme. Following this, the LMC wrote this [statement](#) which was sent to Practices last week.

Letter to CQC on supporting General Practice during a period of unprecedented pressure

BMA GPC have written the [attached letter to the CQC](#) again urging them to immediately halt all non-essential inspections and practice monitoring to allow GPs and their teams, currently under immense pressure, to focus on the job at hand during the pandemic.

BMA GPC made clear to the CQC that, in addition to delivering flu vaccinations to 30 million patients in England this year (and also leading the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination campaign), GPs and their teams must be supported and enabled to provide care that best serves the needs of their patients, in a way that adds most clinical value and keeps patients, clinicians and staff safe - it is imperative that they are not distracted from their primary focus of ensuring the ongoing care of their patients.

Guidance for doctors who are isolating and those in vulnerable groups

With new national restrictions in place, the Government is [advising](#) people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to work from home. The BMA has published some [FAQs](#) explaining what this means for doctors in that group or who live with someone who does.

As reported last week, patients who are on the shielding list will receive a [letter](#) directly from government about what they should do, and a copy of the letter is sufficient to give to an employer as evidence for Statutory Sick Pay purposes – and patients should, therefore, not need a fit note issued by the practice. Read more in the BMA guidance for practices on [protecting clinically extremely vulnerable patients](#).

Updated Directed Enhanced Service Specification for flu

Following the announcement and the recent publication of guidance, an updated [DES Specification for the seasonal flu and pneumococcal vaccination programme 2020/21](#) has been published to reflect practices now being able to access central flu vaccines supplies.





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GP workforce figures

The latest [GP workforce figures](#) showed an overall increase in number of GPs including trainees. Recruiting new GPs is a crucial factor in turning around workload pressures. However, there is still a continued and worrying decline in the number of FTE GPs and GP partners specifically over the last year.

Recent schemes aimed at improving recruitment and retention, such as the partnership premium, the GP fellowship scheme, and the expansion of GP training places may help in the longer term, but the Government must do much more to turn these figures around, to show that GPs are valued and make general practice a genuinely attractive place to work again.

Avoidable harm in Primary Care

BMJ Quality has published a [national study on avoidable significant harm in primary care in England](#), which showed that the frequency of incidents of significant avoidable harm in primary care, and also important new details. According to the research the main causes are diagnostic error (more than 60%), medication incidents (more than 25%) and delayed referrals (nearly 11%).

Influenza immunisation call and recall error

Some practices were approached by concerned patients after mistakenly having been sent letters from NHSEI telling them they should book a flu vaccination. BMA GPC raised this with NHSEI and have been informed that this was in response to an error made by NHS Digital.

In developing a cohort of people at greater risk from influenza for NHSEI, NHSD mistakenly included those who had a diagnosis of glandular fever at some point in the past. Although current glandular fever causes people to be immunosuppressed, past glandular fever does not. As a result, a number of people were incorrectly added to that cohort and received letters from NHSEI encouraging them to have a flu vaccination. When the mistake was discovered, the process of sending letters was stopped, and the misidentified people removed from the cohort. NHSD has written the [attached letter to GPs](#) to inform them of this mistake and provide information that can be used within practices to advise patients in this situation if necessary. They are also, as of today, writing to the misidentified patients, in three cohorts depending on their age and hence what further action, if any, they should take. An example of the letter to patients is also [attached for information](#).

England LMC Conference

The England LMC Conference is taking place 27th November 2020. The 5 LMCs submitted several motions to be considered for debate at the Conference. Please [see attached](#) the motions that have been prioritised for debate.





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Parental leave webinar and workshop

The BMA have published [guidance for GPs on parental leave](#) and will be hosting a webinar and workshop for more in depth guidance on these issues:

2 December from 12.30pm – 2.00pm – *Webinar - 'GP Maternity and Parental leave Guide: launch and introduction to the guide'*. Register [here](#)

9 December from 12.30pm – 2.30pm – *Workshop - 'GP maternity'*. Register [here](#)

Please contact Christopher Scott via cscott@bma.org.uk to submit questions in advance.

GMC virtual conference

The General Medical Council is holding a virtual conference, *Delivering change together*, from Monday 30 November to Wednesday 2 December. Lord Victor Adebawale, Chair of the NHS Confederation, will be joining day one of the event and will discuss the role of healthcare system leaders in tackling inequalities, and what closing the gap means for health outcomes. If you are interested in attending or finding out more about the programme, you can register your interest [here](#). There is no cost to attend, but places are limited.

If you have any questions, please contact the GMC at events@gmc-uk.org

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