



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 17th August 2020

General practice appointment updated guidance

BMA GPC have published [joint guidance with NHSEI on creating more accurate general practice appointment data](#) (GPAD), so that workload delivered in general practice can be more accurately reflected. The guidance introduces an agreed definition of an appointment and asks general practice to start applying this now and systematically, as an important first step to improve data quality. This is to ensure all appointments are being recorded in general practice appointment systems, and to fully capture the scale of work and workload in general practice,

Further technical system specific advice and guidance will be issued to support practices with configuring appointment books and applying a set of new, standardised national categories for appointment types. Read more [here](#)

Supporting Mentors Scheme and GP Fellowship programme

Following the 2020/21 GP contract agreement, NHSEI has now launched the [Supporting Mentors Scheme](#) and [GP Fellowship programme](#), as part of a group of GP recruitment and retention initiatives.

The [supporting mentors scheme](#) aims to support the training of at least 450 GPs as mentors, who will then form a cohort of locally based and highly experienced doctors who can each support between 4-6 mentees. GPs on the scheme will be provided with funded training, leading to a recognised mentoring qualification. Once trained, GP mentors will be reimbursed to conduct one session of mentoring every week. GP mentors will be able to connect with newly qualified doctors on the [GP Fellowship programme](#) and to support them into become part of the local primary care team.

NHSEI has also published a letter about [Expanding the primary care workforce in 2020/21](#), which highlights the [New to Partnership Payment Scheme](#), to support practices to recruit GP partners, and highlights the inclusion of nursing associates to the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme.

Updated Standard Operating Procedures for general practice

NHSEI has updated its [Standard Operating Procedures for general practice](#), which now includes sections on cases definition of COVID-19, patients at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, patients advised to shield, safeguarding, symptom management and end-of-life care.

Risk assessments

Practices are reminded of the importance of undertaking workforce risk assessments on their staff. The BMA has guidance which looks at the implications of risk assessments for practices – specifically what impact the adjustments required for high risk staff could have on practices, staff and patients. It also suggests what mitigation practices could do, such as working from home or removal from areas that are considered hazardous. The guidance also lists risk assessment tools that are available to practices to use. Read the guidance [here](#)





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Limited Liability Companies

We have had some queries from PCNs around whether they should become limited liability companies in order to protect themselves from employment related risks (this is the main worry we have been told by some PCNs particularly in relation to hosting practices). The LMC does not provide legal advice, however, we would like to clarify our position in terms of pros and cons with regards to PCNs becoming limited liability companies.

The main pro is that there is a limited risk of liability. If a PCN is sued through an employment tribunal, for example, the amount of money that they could be sued for would be limited to what was currently in the bank account. Therefore, individual practices will not be affected and neither would the partners of those practices. However, this should be covered by detail within your PCN schedules that highlights any costs should be incurred by all practices. There is also the opportunity to join the AXA scheme to mitigate any risk. For more information on the AXA scheme please visit our [website](#).

There are cons to becoming a limited liability company, the main one is high lawyer and accountancy costs to set up the ltd company and ongoing costs in terms of accountancy and reporting year end accounts. We have heard of large quotations from law firms to convert PCNs into LLC's and we would want practices to be aware of this.

Impact of long-term Covid-19 symptoms on patients and doctors

The latest [BMA tracker survey](#) shows the impact of long-term COVID-19 symptoms on patients and doctors highlighting concerns that the NHS will continue to experience pressure in the upcoming months.

See Dr Richard Vaturey's, Chair of the BMA GPC, response [here](#). Dr Vautrey was interviewed by [ITV news](#) (feature begins at 15:07), commenting on the range of impacts the virus can have on patients and for Radio Aire. This was also reported by the [Daily Mail](#), and in regional media including the [Lancashire Telegraph](#) and [Oxford Mail](#).

The BMJ has now published an article about the [Management of post-acute covid-19 in primary care](#).

Indemnity for flu vaccinations

All three Medical Defence Organisations (MDOs) have confirmed that they will provide indemnity cover, at no extra charge, for practices who vaccinate their own staff against flu this year. BMA GPC are in discussions with NHR about the indemnity arrangements for staff vaccinations for any coronavirus vaccine that may become available.

Serious Shortage Protocol for fluoxetine

Due to ongoing supply issues, the [Serious Shortage Protocol \(SSP\) currently in effect for fluoxetine](#) 40mg capsules has been extended. The SSP was issued on 20 May 2020 and will now end on Friday 4 September 2020.





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Vaccine supply for the 2020 to 2021 children's flu programme

The Fluenz Tetra vaccine will be made available to order by all NHS providers of the 2020/21 children's flu programme on Friday 28 August. First deliveries will be made on your normal scheduled delivery day, beginning on Wednesday 2 September.

The inactivated vaccine (QIVe) for children in clinical risk groups for whom LAIV is unsuitable will be available to order from ImmForm by early September.

These timings remain subject to change and plans for vaccination sessions should be made with this in mind. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated on the [ImmForm](#) website and [PHE Vaccine Update](#).

New GP practice profiles on the NHS website

NHS Digital has updated the GP practice profiles on the NHS website which feature improved support for mobile and tablet devices. Your practice's existing profile information will be automatically copied over to the new platform and the way you [update your profile](#) has not changed. Profiles editors should have received further information from the [NHS website service desk](#). Use the NHS website [GP practice finder](#) to find and view your new profile.

Final pay controls

RSM (a provider of audit, tax and consulting services) have produced a [video on final pay controls](#) for the NHS pension scheme, which explains the charge, how it is calculated and what to do to avoid it. This would be useful for both GPs and practice managers to watch.

Cervical Screening Administration Service – new telephone number

The transfer of the Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS) from PCSE back to the NHS includes the allocation of a new telephone number, which as of 19 August 2020 will be 0300 124 0248. As part of this second phase, CSAS will also be deleting all old email addresses on 31 August 2020 which link to Capita / PCSE. Practices should now use [this online form](#) to contact CSAS.

PPE Portal

Practices are reminded that you can register and place orders for PPE via the [PPE portal](#), which can be delivered within 48 hours, to ensure regular supplies of PPE in advance of the winter and flu campaign. More information is available on the [DHSC PPE portal guidance page](#) and the portal customer service team can be reached on 0800 876 6802 for enquiries or registration support.

