



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 18th January 2021

Additional funding to support rapid care home vaccination

The increased availability of the AstraZeneca vaccine makes it much more possible to vaccinate care home residents and staff and we now need to do this as quickly as possible. BMA GPC have been discussing this regularly with NHSE/I and welcome their announcement last week that [additional funding will be provided to support the rapid delivery of vaccinations to care home staff and residents](#) in England. The care homes supplement will now increase as follows:

- £30 for first doses administered Monday 14 December - Sunday 17 January
- £20 for first doses administered Monday 18 - Sunday 24 January
- £10 for first doses administered Monday 25 - Sunday 31 January
- £10 for all second doses administered

In addition, NHSE/I has provided new payment to support the administration of the Pinnacle system. Vaccination must be recorded immediately in Pinnacle in order to ensure the clinical record is updated and to be sure that PCNs are paid for the work that they are undertaking. PCNs bringing in additional workforce between now and the end of January to ensure that all records for vaccination of priority cohorts are up to date and recorded properly in Pinnacle will be eligible to claim up to £950 per week (a maximum of £2500 per PCN grouping) of funding support.

Vaccine rollout and mass vaccination centres

Last week, the government in England published its [vaccination delivery plan](#) which outlined plans for over 1200 local vaccination sites, most led by GP practices, 206 hospital hubs and 50 mass vaccination centres. [Seven large scale mass vaccination centres](#) opened last week, as well as more local practice vaccination sites and hospital hubs, in addition to those that are already operating. NHSE/I has also published a [map](#) with all the vaccination sites across England.

Vaccination of health care workers

The BMA [continues to call for all health and social care workers](#) to be given urgent priority to protect an already depleted workforce and to help prevent the NHS becoming overwhelmed.

Practices should ensure that locum GPs they are in regular contact with are invited for vaccination either via hospital hubs or by the practice itself. Additionally, any healthcare staff who self-identify with their own registered GP practice should be vaccinated as per the [JCVI guidance](#).

Please do not decline or turn away any health and social care workers. Consider maintaining waiting lists or signpost to other providers if vaccine availability is the rate limiting factor. Healthcare professionals have now also been added to the priority [list of eligible patients](#).





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Change in legislation to allow any GMC registered doctor to administer the COVID vaccine

The Government has announced that doctors who offer their support in delivering the [Enhanced Service](#) Specification COVID vaccination programme in Primary Care settings will be exempt from the requirement to be included on the England Medical Performers List. The [Regulations](#), which came into force on 14 January, remove previous barriers and mean that any GMC registered doctor will be able to administer the vaccine and any ancillary vaccine services under the enhanced service specifications in a Primary Care setting.

Workload prioritisation: Level 4 or 5

BMA GPC have updated their joint [guidance with RCGP on workload prioritisation for Primary Care](#), which sets out what practices should consider doing in a national lockdown, to help them during the immense workload pressures they are currently under.

In view of extreme pressures in most health communities there is a distinct possibility that General Practice will be working at level 4/5 across the ICS.

Update on CQC's regulatory approach

Following our BMA GPC's on CQC to suspend routine reviews they have now published an [update on their regulatory approach](#) during the pandemic, which states:

'For primary medical services we will only inspect in response to significant risk of harm – including concerns raised by people working in services and people using them – and when we cannot seek assurances through other routes. If an inspection is necessary, we will carry out as much activity off-site as possible'

Guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) patients

Following the introduction of another national lockdown, the Government will be sending [a letter](#) with updated guidance to all clinically extremely vulnerable people, which again advises to take extra shielding measures to protect themselves, until at least 21 February 2021. The Government has also extended the offer of a free 4-month [supply of vitamin D](#) supplements for all adults who are clinically extremely vulnerable. Access their updated [guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people](#).

GP practices continue remain open and whilst remote consultations should be the main way in which patient care is delivered, when it is clinically necessary to see vulnerable patients face-to-face they would normally be expected to attend the surgery. Read BMA GPC's updated [guidance](#).





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COVID PPE scheme extended until June 2021

The Government has announced that it is extending the provision of [free COVID-19 PPE for all health, social care and public sector workers](#), until at least the end of June. This will ensure frontline and wider public service workers can continue to access rigorously tested and high-quality PPE. Practices should continue to access COVID-19 PPE via the [PPE portal](#).

The BMA has also called for enhanced and more appropriate PPE to be made available to staff in all healthcare settings, in a letter to the Government's health minister for prevention, Public Health and Primary Care Jo Churchill, and a letter to Public Health England. Read more [here](#)

Pre-registration for offenders leaving prison

The contractual requirement of the [General Medical Services \(GMS\) Contract 2017/18](#) (page 64) to accept patients from the secure estate prior to their release has increased importance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other benefits, pre-registration may help the smooth rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. For individuals leaving the secure estate between the first and second doses of their vaccination who have been registered with a community GP, their GP record will be updated with their vaccination status. GP practices are asked to ensure that processes are in place to meet this contractual requirement, with information on how to do this [here](#).

Exemption cards

If you have an age, health or disability reason for not wearing a face covering:

- you do not routinely need to show any written evidence of this
- you do not need show an exemption card

This means that you do not need to seek advice or request a letter from a medical professional about your reason for not wearing a face covering.

However, some people may feel more comfortable showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering. This could be in the form of an exemption card, badge or even a home-made sign.

Carrying an exemption card or badge is a personal choice and is not required by law.

If you wish to use an exemption card or badge, you can [download exemption card templates](#). You can then print these yourself or show them on a mobile device. Please note that the government is not able to provide physical exemption cards or badges. Source: [Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

