



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 21st June 2022

Risk assessment for practices

The BMA have revised their [guidance on COVID-19 risk assessment for practices](#), following the updated NHSEI national infection prevention and control (IPC) manual.

The [IPC manual](#) is clear about the need for local risk assessments for staff in contact with COVID-19, which is particularly important now that the requirement for social distancing and mask wearing is no longer obligatory. It is still the employer's responsibility to ensure safe working for staff, and thus a risk assessment should still be carried out and appropriate mitigations.

People who come to GP practices are more likely to be ill or clinically vulnerable, so it's vital that practices are able to exercise discretion to protect patients and staff. Especially in the context of rising abuse towards practice staff, people must be assured that if practices are asking them to continue wearing masks this is for the safety of everyone in the building.

The BMA and the LMC will support practices and doctors who continue to ask patients and staff to wear face masks where they feel this is necessary.

GP abuse

A recent [BMJ investigation](#) found that the number of violent incidents at UK general practices recorded by police forces has almost doubled in the past five years.

Read the full BMA [response](#).

See our [website for posters](#) on abuse and respecting Primary Care Staff.

Rebuild General Practice: 3 ways to show your support

Help build awareness of the crisis facing general practice. Your support to amplify the message will help make the campaign a success. Here are three ways to get involved:

1. Sign the 'Letter to my patients'

Hundreds of GPs have already signed an open [letter to our patients](#) - showing them that GPs are on their side. To add your signature, email [Mariah](#) with your full name.

2. Use #RebuildGP

Follow and share content, news, and updates on the campaign [Twitter page](#).

3. Access campaign materials

See our website for campaign materials [here](#).

Fit Notes

From 1 July, new legislation will allow nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, and physiotherapists to legally certify fit notes, in addition to doctors who are currently the only profession able to do so. Non-statutory guidance has been developed to help individuals identify if this task is within their scope of practice as well as a new training module which should be completed before taking up this task. These new products will be available from 1 July. There will be a rollout period from this date where GP IT systems will be updated to reflect the change.





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Accelerated access to patient records

This new service was due to go live at the end of 2021 but was delayed due to concerns from the profession. The Secretary of State has now confirmed a launch date of 1 November 2022.

The BMA GP Committee's IT Policy Group has been having weekly calls with NHSE and has participated in several workshops looking at clinical safety issues, redaction, and guidance documents. They have worked with system suppliers and safeguarding leads and hope mitigations will be in place to address any ongoing safety concerns.

There are several steps that practices need to take between now and the launch date to which the BMA GPC will provide guidance shortly.

Work is still ongoing, and the BMA GPC are making all necessary representations, and continue to highlight the potential concerns of the profession.

Initial Health Assessment services in support of new arrivals from Ukraine

To support Ukrainian refugees arriving in England, NHSEI is asking CCGs to commission Initial Health Assessment services in support of new arrivals from Ukraine. Whilst CCGs will be free to determine how best to undertake this, and who from, NHSE have developed an outline specification and a template Local Enhanced Service to support delivery by patients' own registered GP practice when they register, should practices wish to sign up. Details this can be found on the [NHS England website](#).

The DHSC has also published bilingual versions of the GMS1 registration form:

- [English / Ukrainian](#)
- [English / Russian](#)

One career, endless opportunities [#Choose GP](#)

Applications for 2022 GP specialty training open on 26 July – 16 August 2022. The [GP National Recruitment Office](#) has timelines and applicant guidance, or email gprecruitment@hee.nhs.uk to be put in touch with GPs and trainees who can help with local or general enquiries. Please forward this information to any doctors who may be thinking about career options.

Additional specialist mental health support for patients within general practice

[Patients will be able to get access to specialist mental health support](#) at their local general practice through the introduction of mental health practitioners in PCNs. Funding for up to two mental health practitioners per PCN is available via the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme as outlined in the [GP contract arrangements for 22/23](#), enabling primary care and mental health trusts to work closer together to deliver care and support to patients.

So far nearly 500 mental health practitioners including community psychiatric nurses, clinical psychologists and mental health occupational therapists have been recruited to work across PCNs. More information about recruiting mental health practitioners [is available on FutureNHS](#).





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

New referral form for NHS Digital Weight Management Programme

The [NHS Digital Weight Management Programme](#) has received over 100,000 referrals from general practices. To continue making referrals and to save time by ensuring more of the patient's information auto-populates, practices should now use version 2 of the referral form. CCG IT teams are uploading this version onto your practice system. If your practice uses Ardens or DXS, version 2 is already available. You can also download the updated form [here](#). The following [video](#) can help you to refer patients through the e-referral system. Please [contact NHSE](#) if you have any queries.

Inclusive patient access using digital tools: do you have good practice to share?

Can you [help by sharing](#) your examples of supporting patients to use digital tools (such as a website or an online consultation system) to enhance their access to general practice? NHSE are working with Good Things Foundation - a member of the [VCSE Health and Wellbeing Alliance](#) - to identify good practice and promising approaches. They are particularly interested in work that supports under-served, marginalised or vulnerable groups and communities. They are keen to hear what you did, so others can learn from you. The deadline for submissions is Friday 8 July.

NHS Digital research - allowing patients to update their address online

NHS Digital are working to provide all users of NHS services with a simple means to digitally view and update personal details. As part of this project, the team would like to speak to general practice staff to find out more about the current process of updating patients' address and the process of accepting/declining a request if a patient is outside of catchment. This would be done through a 30-minute interview via Microsoft Teams. If you are interested, please email olya.zinkevica1@nhs.net to arrange a time and date that's most convenient for you.

Quality Improvement Facilitation Development Programme

[Applications are open for the Primary Care – Quality Improvement Facilitation Development Programme](#). This opportunity is for all those working in and around primary care in England, who want to build on their existing knowledge and experience of quality improvement. The programme will support those attending to enhance their ability to be effective facilitators and leaders of change in their own workplace and local systems. Closing date is midnight 12 August 2022.

Your NHS Pension and the Implication of the Allowances and Age Discrimination Case Webinar

Thank you to those that attended the webinar with DR Solicitors Wednesday 15th June. If you would like to see the webinar recording, please see the [following link](#).





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Eligibility criteria for non-emergency patient transport published: for information

The updated eligibility criteria for non-emergency patient transport services (NEPTS) has been [published](#). This follows on from a [review](#) into the services in August 2021, which involved patient groups, transport and healthcare providers, commissioners and other stakeholders. It resulted in the development of a national framework to support services in becoming consistently more responsive, fair, and sustainable. Read the full [consultation feedback report](#) and final [eligibility criteria](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the national NEPTS implementation team at england.neptsreview@nhs.net. Please signpost patients to this service.

Training & Events

To see upcoming LMC and Non LMC training and events please visit [our website](#).

LMC Member Vacancies

We still have GP vacancies available on the following committees:

- Central Lancashire
- Lancashire Coastal LMC
- Morecambe Bay LMC
- Cumbria LMC

If you are interested in representing your constituents as a committee member, or would like to find out more, please get in touch [Mikaela](#).

To see a list of your current LMC representatives, please visit our [website](#).

Members of the LMC office can be found [here](#).

