



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs



21st December 2020

Christmas Appeals

The 5 LMCs will be donating to the Cameron Fund and the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund charities this Christmas.

Reflections on the Development of Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs)

Find **attached** an update from Peter Higgins. We fully intend to engage with all GPs and practices through road shows as soon as we are able.

Roll out of COVID-19 Vaccination programme

Following BMA advice, NHSE/I has updated the [collaborative agreement](#) to strengthen the indemnity and information sharing sections. NHSE/I and Public Health England have also issued a [Patient Group Direction](#) which practice groups are now using, and therefore will not need to use the Patient Specific Direction that hospitals had to use in the initial phase. More information about using PGDs and PSDs is available on [our website](#). On Friday the government issued the [National Protocol for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine](#) and this will allow vaccination sites greater flexibility. All the NHSE/I guidance about the CVP can be accessed [here](#).

The LMC has a couple of documents relating to this which can be found on our website under [Hot Topics](#).

Patient videos in different languages for COVID-19 vaccination programme

Colleagues in West Yorkshire have produced some short videos in alternative languages to help people understand more about the coronavirus vaccine and what it means for them. These are recorded by GPs and are based on the patient leaflets produced by Public Health England to make sure patients get consistent information. The videos, [available on YouTube](#), are aimed at helping people over the age of 80, for whom English may not be their first language, have the right information about the vaccine in a way that is meaningful and easy to understand.

It is hoped that these videos will help to reassure and encourage our BAME communities to take up the offer of the vaccine when invited. Videos are currently available in English, Pashto and Urdu.





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Supporting General Practice – additional £150 Million of funding

Last month, [NHSE/I wrote to practices and CCGs regarding £150 million of additional, non-recurrent funding](#) which practices should now be receiving. Since then, BMA GPC have been contacted by GPs asking them to clarify elements of the scheme and how it fits with other schemes:

- CCGs should ensure that practices receive the money without burdensome administrative or application processes
- The funding must be used to expand workforce capacity, which can be used for new employees, new locums, or additional sessions for existing employees or locums
- Practices are free to use the money to employ locum GPs through any existing arrangements and you should take whatever decisions are most likely to help support your local workforce in a timely manner. Alternatively, practices may wish to use the time-limited funding to ‘pump prime’ permanent employment contracts. We recommend that the [BMA’s Salaried GP Model Contract](#) is used where employment is offered.
- Practices do not have to be signed up to the COVID vaccination programme enhanced service or any other scheme to receive this funding. However, practices that are signed up to the enhanced service may use the funding to engage staff to support this work, or to backfill permanent staff who have been redeployed.

NHSE/I will soon be announcing a new funding stream to develop primary care staff pools, which is referenced in the [letter](#), but the guidance is yet to be published. While practices’ share of the £150 million funding can be used to bring in staff through the new pools, there is no requirement to do so. There is also no obligation to use the accompanying ‘flexible employment contract template’ or the forthcoming practice-locum matching software. If the software is used, it does not have to replace existing relationships between practices and locums. Costs for locum engagement should continue to be decided between practices and locums.

Lateral flow antigen testing in Primary Care

Practices will this week receive notification of the availability of lateral flow antigen testing kits which will be rolled out to regularly test asymptomatic patient-facing staff delivering NHS primary care services in England. Patient-facing staff will be asked to test twice a week using self-administered nasal swabbing and report their results through an online platform, and any positive lateral flow antigen tests will need to be followed up by a confirmatory PCR test. It is voluntary for practices and individuals to take part in this, and is not a contractual requirement, however, if you do start testing, it is a statutory requirement to report all of your results.





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Primary care contractors will receive an invitation to order lateral flow testing devices directly from Primary Care Services England (PCSE), who will be managing the ordering and delivery process. Following receipt of an invitation, practices should log on and complete their order by Wednesday 30 December.

This [letter](#) from NHSE/I has further information on how to order and receive deliveries of lateral flow antigen testing kits for staff. [Standard Operating Procedures](#) and [guidance for staff self-testing](#) have also been published.

BMA GPC are producing guidance on this, which will be published shortly. In the meantime, find out more in this [blog](#) by Mark Coley, member of the Sessional GPs committee.

Guidance for claiming reimbursement for PPE

The [guidance for claiming reimbursement for PPE for non-hospital providers](#), including General Practice, has now been published. Claims may be made for COVID-19 PPE purchased from 27 February to 31 December 2020 for use in delivery of NHS clinical services. There will be no further entitlement to reimbursement for PPE purchased after 31 December 2020 as this can be obtained free of charge from the DHSC portal.

Upcoming vote on future negotiations on the PCN DES

Following a resolution of LMC England conference in November BMA GPC will shortly be seeking a mandate from the GP profession on whether GPC England should continue negotiations on the PCN DES. This will be open to all GPs in England and will take place *in January*. We know that this is currently an extremely busy period for all in General Practice, we would encourage as many GPs as possible to participate as this will have a direct influence upon negotiations and funding available for the 2020/21 contract and beyond. Further information on the vote will be sent out early in the new year.

New portal for PCN Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme claims

NHSEI have launched an online portal to allow PCNs submit to submit claims for reimbursement for roles claimed under the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme. This went live on Friday. It has been created to allow PCNs to submit their monthly claims through the portal; and CCGs to approve/reject claims forms through the portal

The portal has been designed with PCNs and CCGs and will support a more streamlined approach for submission and approval of additional roles claims. This page on [FuturesNHS](#) provides more info.





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EU Exit: Medicines supply in Primary Care

Joint statement by the BMA and PSNC attached.

'Cancard' BMA and RCGP statement

Attached.

Christmas message from Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of BMA GPC

As we approach Christmas and the end of this dreadful year, I again want to thank you, and the team you work with, for all that you have done for your patients and your colleagues. Through the hard work and dedication of thousands of GPs, nurses, healthcare assistants, reception staff, practice managers, administrative and support staff, LMC officers and now increasingly joined by pharmacists, physios, paramedics, social prescribers and other healthcare workers, General Practice has been open throughout the pandemic, supporting and caring for so many of our patients at this time of significant need. We can be proud of the role that we have played responding to the challenges that COVID-19 brought.

It's been a tough and tiring year, one that has left so many of us physically and mentally drained, and sadly also a year when we lost some of our valued colleagues to this terrible infection. Caring for one another has never been more important and if you need help at any time, your LMC and the BMA are here for you.

We can though start to hope that the New Year will be better, with general practices across the country working together and taking a leading role in protecting our patients through the COVID vaccination programme. Within just a week we will have provided the first vaccination for hundreds of thousands of our most vulnerable patients, a world class achievement from a world class GP service.

Whilst many will be working throughout the Christmas and New Year period, I hope that you do have some time to rest and relax.

On behalf of the GPC UK team, thank you again for all that you have done, and for all that you will do in the coming year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT THE LMC!