



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

## BBC Radio Cumbria Interview

BBC Radio Cumbria interviewed Dr David Wrigley, Morecambe Bay LMC Member & Vice Chair of the BMA, to discuss the pressures that GP Practices are under.

You can listen to the interview [here](#) at 2:06:10.

## COVID-19 vaccination programme guidance

The specification for the COVID-19 vaccination programme is expected to be published this week, with more information for practices that have identified designated sites to use for the shared delivery of the programme. The BMA have updated their newly published [guidance](#) about the CVP to explain the specific characteristics for two of the potential vaccines that are likely to be supplied in the UK and how practices can prepare for this. There is also clarification that the latest information on the vaccines suggests that patients do not need to be observed following administration of the vaccine, but patients must not drive for 15 minutes after.

The BMA have added a new section about how practices can utilise the resources and contractual flexibilities provided, including the use of PCN staff, extended access services and using QOF and local enhanced services income protection to enable workload prioritisation, and considering what is needed to practically deliver the vaccine and workforce issues.

Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of the BMA GPC, also wrote a blog about GPs taking a lead role in defeating the virus which you can read [here](#).

## Flu vaccination programme

The Department of Health have announced that all those over 50 can be included in the influenza programme from 1 December. Practices can order additional vaccines from the national store.

Following the impressive work of practices in recent weeks, flu vaccine uptake is higher in all vulnerable groups except pregnant women compared to this time last year. Provisional data published by PHE suggests 72.9% of those aged 65 and over, 45.0% of 2 year olds and 46.8% of 3 year olds have had their vaccine.

## Highest ever GP trainee acceptances figures

Health Education England (HEE) published figures last week which show the highest ever number of GPs entering training in England with 3,793 posts accepted, exceeding their target of 3,250. GP trainee acceptances have increased year on year for the last 7 years. These figures represent a 40% increase on the figure of 2,700 recruits when HEE started its recruitment drive back in 2014. This is welcoming news and a sign that the changes made is leading to more and more young doctors being attracted to a career in General Practice. Read more [here](#).





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## Secretary of State praises GPs' pandemic response

Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, led the No 10 briefing last Monday and in response to a question from the media he said:

*“What I’d say to every GP is how grateful I am for the work that you’re doing, and your whole practice, everybody in primary care, both on the flu vaccine right now, which is being rolled out in record numbers – we’ve had a record uptake, we’ve had a 10 percentage point increase in the normal uptake of flu vaccines and that’s really good news – and of course on the normal pressures of primary care. I’m really glad that a much bigger proportion of appointments in primary care are now done either over the phone or by video because that makes life easier for GPs and patients and there’s been a really positive response to that. But that doesn’t of course lift the whole burden, even though it makes access easier. I want to thank in advance GPs for all the work that I know that they’re doing now and that there’ll be even more of this winter to keep people safe.”*

## CQC support for general practice

The BMA have received a response from the CQC to their letter, which was attached to last week’s Brieflet, urging the CQC to halt all non-essential inspections. This is to allow GPs and their teams, currently under immense pressure to focus on the job at hand during the pandemic. Disappointingly, the CQC are not prepared to change their transitional regulatory approach, although it has confirmed that it will only inspect based on risk – i.e. where there are serious concerns around safety and quality of care.

The BMA have written the [attached letter](#) to Matt Hancock to raise concerns about this calling again for an immediate suspension of all CQC inspections and reviews of General Practice, other than those required for serious safety issues. This should be for the duration of the pandemic and to enable practices to focus on other priorities, not least the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The LMC have contacted CQC locally on this matter. They responded to say that they will work with providers as far as is practical and appropriate to agree suitable dates and times for any calls that need to take place in relation to their Transitional Monitoring Approach (TMA). Any requests to postpone such calls will be assessed on a case by case basis. Please get in touch if you have any issues/queries.

## BMA report on exiting the lockdown in England

BMA has launched a [new report warning that lifting lockdown](#) in England without new measures in place risks deepening the crisis in the health service, and will leave hospitals and Practices overwhelmed, unable to provide even the most critical of patient care.

The report outlines major reforms, once lockdown is lifted, to keep infection rates low and pull back the NHS from collapse this winter. The BMA is calling for the new measures to be brought in, to bridge the time between the planned end of lockdown, on December 2nd, and an effective vaccine programme getting underway. Read more [here](#).





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## **Bone health card to help patients stay on osteoporosis medication**

Each year a large number of people suffer from fragility fractures and over three quarters of people who are prescribed osteoporosis medication are not on treatment a year on from their fracture. People who have sustained one fragility fracture are twice as likely to sustain another which can be life altering and it has been shown that osteoporosis medication needs to be taken continuously for several years to be effective at preventing further fractures.

The Royal College of Physicians' Fragility Fractures Audit Programme (FFFAP) has, in collaboration with the BMA GPC and the RCGP developed [the bone health card](#) to help patients with fragility fractures. This is to discuss their medication and any issues with their primary healthcare team to ensure key information is discussed when reviewing medication and where to get further information and support.

## **Invitation to national conference: domestic abuse – men are victims too**

- Wednesday 2nd December 2020 (9.30am –12.30pm)

The impact of COVID-19 will see many men remaining in their homes with their abuser.

One in every six men in Britain will suffer from domestic abuse in their lifetime and one in every three domestic abuse victims is male.

In 2019, 180,209 men reported (equates to 1 in 4 reports) to the Police as being victims of domestic abuse (542,193 women) – This represents a 70% increase since 2014 when 105,830 men reported to the Police.

The Conference will contain a mixture of content including presentations, videos, and insightful and informative “Panel Question & Answer Session”. You will also hear from survivors who will share their lived experiences.

Please click [here](#) to register for the event.

## **Support for GPs & PMs**

General Practice is stressful and at times we may need support and help.

The LMC have GP mentors who provide confidential support for local GP's - [LMC GP Support Scheme](#)

We also have the [Horizon Programme](#) to support PMs.

