



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 1st March 2022

Update on 2022/23 GP contract negotiations

The GPC England executive team have been meeting with NHSEI frequently since early January 2022 to negotiate changes to the contract that reflect the current day pressures. Negotiations for the 22/23 contract are ongoing and remain confidential till they have concluded.

Whilst the details of ongoing negotiations remain confidential for now; the following matters are in the public domain:

1. [Contract uplift for 22/23](#)
2. [Primary Care Networks](#)
3. [PCN Service requirements](#)
4. [IIF](#)
5. [Access](#)

BMA GPC will be meeting with LMCs and GPs over the coming months to seek views on a model of general practice which is fit for the future. We will keep you updated.

Lifting COVID restrictions and infection control

As of 24 February, as part of the Government's '[Living with COVID-19](#)' plan, the COVID restrictions have been lifted in England, including the requirement to isolate after testing positive.

The [BMA has voiced concerns](#) that living with COVID doesn't mean ignoring its continued harm to many, and that scrapping all restrictions and allowing the infection to spread in an unmonitored and unfettered manner would be damaging to the health of millions.

They are also concerned that removing the protections in healthcare settings that currently exist, such as mask wearing, would be wrong and have raised this with NHSEI, who has confirmed that the [Infection Prevention Control](#) (IPC) guidance for healthcare workers will not be changing and still advises that face masks should continue be worn by staff and patients in health care settings.

NHSEI has published a [letter](#) to healthcare providers to update in light of the Living with COVID plan which confirms that there are no changes to IPC measures, and which also advises that healthcare staff who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who have symptoms of, should not attend work until they have had two negative LFD test results taken 24 hours apart, no earlier than day 5 after their initial positive test.

BMA GPC have requested urgent communications to the public about IPC expectations for public in healthcare settings.





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COVID-19 vaccination programme

COVID-19 vaccination for all 5–11-year-olds

Following the latest [JCVI guidance on vaccinations for all 5-11 year olds](#), NHSEI has published [guidance](#) on the actions to take to begin administering vaccinations to 5-11 year-olds from the beginning of April.

The COVID-19 vaccination [enhanced service specification](#) will be extended and is being updated to align with the JCVI guidance as well as the next steps guidance (below), and will be published shortly.

Next steps for vaccination programme

NHSEI has sent out a [letter setting out the next steps of the vaccination programme](#) asking local systems to plan for the April to September period, advising that general practice should focus on delivery of core/routine services to patients, and that it is likely that PCN sites will 'hibernate' over that period whilst being prepared to stand back up if there is a surge. Provision of COVID vaccinations over that period will be through mass vaccination sites and pharmacies, although in limited circumstances, where appropriate and agreed with local systems, PCN sites might still be utilised. Read more in the [planning parameters document](#).

The letter also announced that a second booster programme will commence in Autumn 2022, which will be limited to over 75s, care home residents and severely immuno-compromised - it will not include health and care staff. The NHSEI letter also requests local systems about preference for delivery of the further booster programme from September.

The BMA GPC will continue to engage with NHSEI on this over the spring and summer.

Check your NHS pension scheme protection

If you have maintained enhanced protection under the 1995 or 2008 sections, be aware this will be lost when you transition to the 2015 scheme on 1 April 2022. Members should consider opting out of the NHS pension if they want to retain the enhanced or fixed protection and do so by 31 March 2022 – it is important that you ensure that PCSE effects this promptly. [Read more](#)

NHS Elective Recovery Plan

The BMAs comprehensive [summary and analysis of the new NHS Elective Recovery Plan](#) has now been published. The recovery plan sets out a range of ambitions, policies, and programmes targeted at reducing the elective care backlog in England over the next three years.

GPC England has encouraged NHSEI to develop a support package so general practices can deliver recovery and deal with the backlog in long-term conditions. The briefing analyses the key details of the plan – read it [here](#).





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NHS Cervical Screening Programme - National Ceasing Audit

In 2021 GP practices were asked to audit patients ceased from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme from 1 April 2010 for 'no cervix' that did not receive a ceasing notification letter.

From 1 March 2022 the Cervical Screening Administration Service (CSAS) will start to reinstate patients whose GP practice did not respond to the request to complete phase 1 of the national ceasing audit of the NHS Cervical Screening Programme. Reinstating non-responders is the safest approach for this cohort of patients as their ceasing status has not been verified.

Once reinstated these patients will appear on the PNL (Prior Notification List), accessed via Open Exeter. Practices will receive further communications on the timescales for when their patients will be reinstated as well as advice on any specific actions they need to take from the NHSEI Regional Commissioning Team or CCG in due course.

HPV 3 to 2 dose schedule change in the NHS national vaccination programme

From 1 April 2022 the HPV vaccination programme is moving from a 3 dose to 2 dose schedule for eligible adolescents and adults starting the course after they turn 15 years old, including men who have sex with men. This is except for individuals known to be HIV infected or immunocompromised, who should continue to be offered the 3-dose schedule. The interval between doses for the 2-dose schedule should be 6-24 months after the first dose.

The [bipartite letter provides further information and guidance](#). A revised Green Book chapter and PGD will also be published in due course to support this change.

Lancashire & Cumbria BMA GPC representation

If you are a BMA member and you would like to represent colleagues on the General Practitioners Committee for Lancashire & Cumbria, now is your chance!

Nominations close on 7th March at midday.

The successful candidate will take their regional seat at the start of the next session and will hold their seat for a three-year term (2022-2025).

To submit a nomination, go to elections.bma.org.uk

For more information on the GPC, please go to the GPC UK [webpage](#), email the BMA team elections@bma.org.uk or get in touch with the LMC office.

