



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Partnership Agreement Drafting Service

The LMC are delighted to announce that we are launching a partnership agreement drafting service beginning Wednesday 9th September for all practices in Lancashire and Cumbria.

Having an up to date partnership agreement in place protects you as an individual and your practice, identifying responsibilities and obligations of partners at a practice. It is a vitally important document which should be agreed in advance with any incoming partner.

We have helped practices in the past to encompass what they would like within an agreement and we have drafted precise documents accordingly. However, we have now partnered up with a specialist law firm so our service will now be led by a legally qualified team who specialise in partnership and contract law, ensuring legal accuracy. The cost of us drafting you a partnership agreement will normally be £1,500. However, there may be an additional cost, (which we will discuss with you in advance) in instances where there is a more complex ask.

There are many events that may trigger the need for you to change a clause such as when a new partner joins or when a partner leaves and/or if there is a change to the premise's ownership. You can also mitigate the possibility and the impact of the 'last man standing' situation by adding clauses into a partnership agreement which perhaps prohibits the number of partners that can retire within the same time period.

Having an agreement is more important than ever and with that being said, if you are interested in getting one of our bespoke agreements drafted then please contact [Abigail Askew](#) or call 01772 863806.

## Appraisal 2020

Following the suspension of appraisals at the end of March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSE/I together with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, GMC and BMA, agreed to a rebalanced approach that focuses on the doctor's professional development and wellbeing, and simplifies expectations around supporting information and pre-appraisal paperwork. The appraisal will be simplified as far as possible, and [NHSE/I has written to responsible officers](#) asking them to take a flexible approach, aiming to begin reinstating appraisals by 1 October, with a view to resuming normal levels of activity by 1 April 2021.

The BMA have been in discussion with NHSE/I to ensure the planned restart is not overly disruptive for practices while allowing public confidence to be maintained, and they are encouraged by the significant simplification of the requirements and the reduction in paperwork, which allows both appraisers and appraisees to focus on treating patients rather than bureaucracy. This slimmed down system is a step forward in empowering doctors to use their appraisal to reflect on their professional development, and forms part of a wider drive by the BMA to reduce bureaucracy.

See the BMA's full statement [here](#). Read more about 'Appraisal 2020' on the [Academy of Medical Royal Colleges website](#). See [here](#) for medical appraisal key points for doctors.





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## Flu specifications 2020/21

NHS England have now published the updated [flu specification for 2020/21](#) and the updated DES directions [here](#). The updated specification makes several changes to the previously published version, expanding the eligible groups, with potential further expansion later in the year. In addition, when offering vaccination to eligible patients practices are encouraged to request that the patient advises the practice of their ethnicity status if they have not previously provided this information to the practice. Where provided by the patient or their carer, the practice must record the ethnicity information in the patient record. This is in order to improve data recording to support our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and any potential immunisation programme. Commissioners will invite practices to participate in the 2020/21 Flu DES before 7 September 2020 and practices will need to respond no later than 14 September. Additional BMA guidance and NHS England FAQs will be published shortly.

In the meantime, we are able to share the following resources from our colleagues at Wessex LMC:

- [Top Tips Booklet](#) for flu vaccination 2020/1 – this booklet provides hints and tips based on the current challenges and from information shared by practices, GPs and the various Flu Vaccination groups Wessex LMC is working with.
- [The Flu calculator](#) – this is an Excel spreadsheet which will allow practices to enter their data such as list size, numbers in the various at risk groups, including the shielded group and children. This will help practices with their planning and the capacity they will need.

## Flu vaccinations for 50-64 year olds

There is some anecdotal evidence that 50-64 year olds are trying to book in for flu vaccines. NHSE/I communications have provided the wording below that GPs can use on websites etc. that makes it clear that 50-64 year olds will not be vaccinated until November at the earliest, and only then if there is vaccine available:

*Please note that people in the 50-64-year old age group will not be vaccinated until November and December, providing there is sufficient vaccine, and no appointments will be offered for this age group until then. This is to ensure that those who are most at risk are vaccinated first. If you are 50-64 and you are in one of the other groups which is eligible for the flu vaccination, for example you have a health condition which puts you at risk from the flu, you will be invited earlier.*

## Extension of two fluoxetine Serious Shortage Protocols

DHSC has informed us that because of ongoing supply issues, the Serious Shortage Protocol for fluoxetine 40mg capsules is being varied to extend the end date, which was previously 04 September 2020. The end date for this SSP is now Friday 25 September 2020.

In addition, the Serious Shortage Protocol for fluoxetine 10mg tablets is also being varied to extend the end date, which was previously 11 September 2020. The end date for this SSP is now Wednesday 31 March 2021. Read more on the [NHSBSA SSP webpage](#).





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## QOF

NHS England have now published revised QOF guidance which details the requirements for 2020/21. This includes detail of the following:

- The points and payment changes for the four flu vaccination and two cervical screening indicators;
- The indicators which will continue to be paid on a conditional basis;
- The refocused requirements for the Quality Improvement domain support the restoration of key services to people with a learning disability and early cancer diagnosis;
- The indicators which will be subject to income protection arrangements and the conditions upon this income protection.

This guidance is effective immediately and the Statement of Financial Entitlement will be amended shortly to reflect this. You can access full details [here](#).

## The NHS pension scheme as a sessional GP

Dr Krishan Aggarwal, GPC England and Sessional GPs Committee member, and deputy chair of the BMA Pensions Committee, has written a webpage for sessional and locum GPs on the NHS pension scheme, which replaces his previous blogs on this issue.

The webpage is going to be a live document and if there is anything you would like to be covered please email [Sessionalgps.gpc@bma.org.uk](mailto:Sessionalgps.gpc@bma.org.uk).

The guidance sets out which pension tier to use, submitting the right forms, annualisation, the total rewards statement (TRS), the upcoming the upcoming PCSE portal and how to escalate complaints to PCSE. See the webpage is [here](#).

## Wesleyan Retirement Seminar

Wesleyan are hosting a webinar designed specifically for medical professionals who want to learn more about retirement planning and the options available to early retirement. Please see the invite [here](#).

## England LMC Conference

This is a reminder that the England LMC Conference has been announced to take place on Friday 27th November. The England LMC conference is where policy is made and discussed and as always motions will be put forward from our 5 LMCs. Please let [Ross](#) know if you have any issues you think need debating to influence national policy that you would like us to submit. The deadline for motions to be submitted is Friday 18th September.

