



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Blood bottle shortages

The shortages of Becton Dickinson blood test tubes across GP surgeries and hospitals are now severe, and the [BMA has raised concerns](#) that if the NHS does not reduce the amount being used in the coming days, the most clinically important blood tests may be at risk.

Local ICS Communications have also been shared with practices on this issue.

The BMA has [written to the Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid](#) calling for urgent action from ministers to address the shortages outlining the key areas that require urgent attention:

- Public-facing communications from government, responding to patients' concerns and outlining how long the current situation is expected to last
- A clear plan for what happens if the tubes run out before an alternative supply can be put in place
- Assurances that once supplies return to normal doctors will be supported to deal with the resulting backlog in tests.

There is urgent need for the government to do much more to provide patients with detailed, easily accessible information about the situation so that practices are not blamed for something they have no control over. NHSE/I published [guidance](#) about the impact of the national shortage, after the BMA raised concerns about the impact this is already having on the ability of practices to complete QOF and other national and local contracts. This is a position the LMC is pushing locally. The guidance advises practices not do any routine blood tests, until the situation has been resolved, and until then, urgent blood investigations can still be done as supplies allow (the national indemnity scheme, CNSGP, will cover this situation).

Health and Care Bill 2021-22: Primary Care 'Asks' of the Bill Committee

Please find [attached](#) a briefing the BMA have produced together with other national primary care contractor bodies as part of BMA lobbying on the health bill.

Delays in influenza vaccines

[Seqirus](#) has informed practices that due to road freight challenges, there will be a delay to scheduled delivery of influenza vaccine by one to two weeks. Practices have been asked not to book any flu clinics until they have received a Delivery Note email from Seqirus.

Sessional GP Meeting - Management of rhinitis, rhino-sinusitis and allergies in post COVID era

The next LMC Sessional GP Meeting is taking place Thursday 23rd September via Microsoft Teams, 7-9pm. The topic is: Management of rhinitis, rhino-sinusitis and allergies in post COVID era presented by Prof Kumar from Euxton Hall Hospital. Please email Rebecca.noblett@nwlmc.org if you would like to attend.





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LMC Partnership Agreement Drafting Service – One year since launch!

It has now been 1 year since the LMC launched our partnership agreement drafting service for all practices in Lancashire and Cumbria. Thank you to those who have used our service – we hope that you have been happy with the work we have done for you and we will continue to provide this service as we believe it helps many GP partners.

We would like to remind you that this service is provided for a one-off fee of £1500.00 with all prior work included and changes going forward free of charge, i.e., if a partner leaves or a new partner arrives, we will amend the names on the agreement for you with no additional cost.

As you are aware, 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 provided to any incoming partner.

Abi would be happy to have a discussion with any practice if you have any specific questions around getting one of our bespoke agreements – please feel free to email abigail.askew@nwlmc.org or call 01772 863806.

COVID vaccinations

Updated advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on vaccination of children aged 12 to 15.

JCVI have issued further guidance relating to vaccinating children [JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination of children aged 12 to 15 years: 3 September 2021](#) The committee is of the opinion that the benefits from vaccination are marginally greater than the potential known harms but acknowledges that there is considerable uncertainty regarding the magnitude of the potential harms. The margin of benefit, based primarily on a health perspective, is considered too small to support advice on a universal programme of vaccination of otherwise healthy 12 to 15-year-old children at this time. It has suggested the government may wish to seek further views on the wider societal and educational impacts from the chief medical officers of the 4 nations, with representation from JCVI in these subsequent discussions.

JCVI advice on third dose vaccination for severely immunosuppressed

The [JCVI has advised](#) that a third vaccine dose of the COVID-19 vaccination should be offered to people over 12 who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second dose, including those with leukaemia, advanced HIV and recent organ transplants, as they may not mount a full response to vaccination and, therefore, may be less protected than the wider population. This is in addition to any booster they may need in the future.

We are still waiting for JCVI to decide on whether, when and to whom booster doses should be given. Practices need this information as soon as possible as they prepare to start their annual flu campaign.





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Survey of practices' experiences of using PCSE payments and pensions portal in August

The BMA GPC continue to challenge PCSE to ensure that their pay and pensions portal is fit for use by both GPs and practices. The portal has now been in use for three months and the BMA GPC are looking to gauge how effective the various 'fixes' put in place by PCSE to correct what they have described as 'teething issues'.

The BMA have launched a joint survey, with the Institute of General Practice Management, for practices and practice managers to learn of their experiences of using the system during August specifically. They are also keen to know about experiences of contacting PCSE for support around issues raised around the portal since it came into use on 1 June.

Please complete the [survey](#) which should take no longer than 10 minutes and will be invaluable in helping hold PCSE and NHSE accountable for the portal's performance. The survey will remain open until Friday 17 September.

#Support Your Surgery – GPC England campaign

Following the launch of the BMA GPCs [Support Your Surgery](#) campaign, more than 5,600 people have signed the [petition](#) asking GPs and the public to support the call on Government to provide the resourcing need to increase the number of GPs in England.

The BMA have added more resource materials to [the Support Your Surgery campaign page](#), including a [downloadable version of the petition](#) for use in practices. They have produced [poster](#) and [twitter versions](#) explaining why practices are having to work differently during the pandemic.

Physical posters have now also been dispatched to more than 5,800 practices.

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS and the LMC are also in the process of creating communications to patients to raise awareness of the pressures of General Practice and to manage expectations.

