



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 17th May 2021

NHSE letter: Updated SOP to support restoration of General Practice services

Many colleagues will now be aware of the above letter, issued by NHS England on Thursday evening 13th May, purporting to advise GP practices how to improve patient access to general practice services as Government COVID-19 advice changes from Monday 17 May.

We can confirm that this letter was not discussed in any form with the BMA General Practitioners Committee. We would further advise practices that it has no contractual force; it is guidance.

We still await the publication of the Updated Standard Operating Procedure and hope that some common sense will prevail when it is made available.

If you are:

- Offering patients access to your practice via telephone/online and your reception is also open;
- Offering patients face to face appointments based upon your assessment of clinical need following a discussion between the clinician and the patient;
- Offering on-line access for a proportion of your appointments;
- Offering a discretionary e-consultation (or equivalent) platform, which need only be during core hours Monday-Friday 08:00-18:30, and;
- Providing information about your services via your practice website,

...then you are in full compliance with the terms of your contract.

The BMA GPC Chair (Dr Richard Vautrey) has also issued the **attached** statement. Nationally there has been a lot of consternation around this letter and BMA GPC have a meeting this week with NHSE to voice the concerns of the profession and discuss further.

If you have any further queries, please do contact the office.

COVID-19 vaccination programme

COVID vaccine status

The [Government has announced](#) that from 17 May 2021, people will be able to demonstrate their COVID-19 vaccine status for travelling purposes, by accessing the NHS app, or by calling 119. People are also strongly advised not to contact their GP to prove their vaccine status.

“Do not contact your GP surgery about your COVID-19 vaccination status. GPs cannot provide letters showing your COVID-19 vaccination status.”





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This was also supported in a motion at the LMC UK Conference passed last Tuesday, which called for easy access to complete vaccination and immunisation record, to provide evidence for employment and travel purposes, to reduce the need for patients to request this from their GP.

In preparation for the requests that may arrive in General Practice, practices can use the **attached** draft text to inform messages on your websites and to signpost patients to.

Changes to the national booking service (NBS) for pregnant women

The new NBS functionality will enable pregnant women to book appointments at a site that offers the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine following a series of screening questions. This is in line with JCVI guidance and the [Green Book](#).

Every woman who is pregnant or thinks she might be, should be offered a discussion on the potential risks and benefits of vaccination with a clinician, so that she can make an informed choice about whether to receive it. Pregnant women will be able to have a conversation with a healthcare professional at their vaccination appointment or can speak to their maternity team or GP service.

LMC UK Conference

The LMC UK Conference 2021 was held last week, where LMC representatives from across the UK debated a wide range of motions – many focused, not unexpectedly, on the workload and workforce pressures in General Practice which have been exacerbated even further during the pandemic. Also, the conference passed some very important motions, including ones calling for zero tolerance to racism and the role General Practice can play in addressing climate change.

DPN for GP data for planning and research (GPDPR), legal direction

NHS Digital issued a [Data Provision Notice \(DPN\)](#) on 12 May to all practices in England notifying them of their intention to begin extracting data as part of the GP Data for Planning and Research (GPDPR) programme. GPDPR is the successor to the GP Extract Service (GPES) and it is a legal requirement for practices to comply with the DPN.

Read the BMAs [joint statement with the Royal College of GPs](#) about this.

Practices need to comply with DPN; update your Privacy notice; consider as a practice if you will proactively be contacting patients to inform them of what is changing; and register type1 opt outs in a timely fashion.

See also these key documents/links

[Data Provision Notice \(DPN\)](#)

[Privacy statement](#)

[Patient information on GPDPR](#)





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[Transparency notice](#)

[Type 1 opt-out form](#)

[Next steps for GPs](#)

New GP pay and pensions scheme

The new GP Pay and Pensions system is due to become available to practices and GPs on 1 June. More information can be found [here](#).

Mental Health awareness week 2021

It was [Mental Health Awareness Week last week](#), hosted by the mental health foundation.

The LMC has a GP Support Scheme that is a free confidential independent counselling service offered to all GPs in Lancashire & Cumbria. It provides pastoral support to all GPs who are experiencing problems such as stress, career or partnership issues, addiction, or general unhappiness/burn-out. It is also open to GPs and first 5 GPs who want general career advice. Mentoring is given by GPs in Lancashire & Cumbria on a confidential 1:1 basis. We also work in collaboration with the Practitioner Health Service. For more details visit our [website](#) or contact Mariah.

