



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 20th July 2021

Easing of COVID restrictions and face coverings

As highlighted in correspondence last week, NHSE/I have now made a [statement](#) that the government's [infection control guidance for healthcare settings](#) has not changed, and so will continue to apply following the lifting of restrictions, and healthcare settings should therefore maintain face coverings among other IPC measures.

NHS staff and self-isolation

As of yesterday's letter, [Staff isolation: approach following updated government guidance](#), Public Health England have updated their guidance on self-isolation for health and care staff. It sets out that if there is a risk that staff absence would lead to potential patient harm then staff who are fully vaccinated (14 days post second dose) may be brought back to work ahead of the self-isolation period following the completion of a local risk assessment.

Staff should continue to isolate until local risk assessments have been finalised. The LMC is working closely with the ICS on this process.

Update on GPC England resolution

At the last GPC England meeting in May, the committee passed a vote of no confidence in the senior leadership of NHS England and Improvement. Among other things, the motion also instructed the GPC England executive team to cease all formal meetings with NHSE/I until such time a motion could be brought back to the committee recommending that NHSE/I had taken sufficient steps to restore the confidence in its leadership. This is an instruction they have followed. Yesterday, GPC England met again to discuss progress and the direction we may wish to go next.

Despite some signs of progress, after discussion at yesterday's meeting, a recommendation was not brought to return to formal meetings with NHSE/I at this point.

GPC England have stated that this is not a situation that they want to continue and they recognise that getting to a place where they are able to negotiate effectively on behalf of the profession with an NHSE/I that clearly demonstrates that it understands and acts on the needs of general practice is in the best interests for everyone, not least our patients.

COVID-19 Phase 3 ES

NHSE/I published the [Enhanced Service Specification](#) for phase 3 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and other assorted documents last week.





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Health and Social Care bill briefing for General Practice

Following the introduction of the Government's [Health and Care Bill](#) to the House of Commons last week, GPC and the BMA have produced a [briefing](#) outlining the key implications and potential impacts of the new legislation on GPs and General Practice. This covers key changes including the transfer of powers from CCGs to ICSs, GP voice within ICSs, and changes to funding flows.

The LMC continues to engage in conversations across Lancashire and Cumbria with a hope of bringing together a unified GP voice at all levels.

Medical Examiners roll out

On Tuesday, 8 June, the UK Government [formally announced](#) the roll out of the [medical examiner system](#) into primary care in England and Wales, although medical examiners have already been in place in Scotland and in acute settings in England and Wales. Many have expressed deep concern about the impact this could have on an already overstretched, underfunded, primary care system. Complicating matters was that at the time of the announcement, there was no statutory instruments in place for the roll out.

The recently published [Health and Care Bill](#) will, if enacted, see dramatic changes for the NHS in England, and the BMA has issued a [press response](#) to the publication of the Bill, highlighting their concerns.

The LMC is engaging in discussions with Medical Examiners to understand what is going to happen in more detail.

Survey about CQC inspections

BAPIO GP forum is [seeking views](#) of GPs and GP Practices effected by CQC inspections, particularly from ethnic minority GPs or practices owned and/or led by ethnic minority GPs. This will help inform the discussions with CQC on issues facing ethnic minority GPs and the practices they work in. Please feed in your views [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Kalindi Tumorugoti (Kalindi.Tumorugoti@nhs.net)

LMC Distribution lists

We are constantly updating our distribution lists – If you know of a GP or PM not currently receiving our Brieflets just let us know and we will add them to our lists.

