



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 22nd June 2021

COVID-19 vaccination programme

Acceleration of second doses for cohort 10 and plans for inviting the remainder of cohort 12

NHSE/I has published a letter advising that [appointments for a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be brought forward from 12 to 8 weeks for the remaining people in cohort 10](#) (40-49 year olds) who have yet to receive their second dose.

The letter also includes an update on inviting the remainder of cohort 12 (18-24 year olds) to book their COVID-19 vaccinations, availability of support to meet challenges to system capacity and information about a webinar to discuss the new developments.

[People aged 18 and over in England](#) are now eligible and will be invited to book their vaccination appointments through the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119. It is expected that all adults in England will shortly be eligible to book an appointment. However, we do have concerns that the limitations on availability of Pfizer and Moderna vaccination will mean many young adults will have to wait a number of weeks before being able to get this much needed protection.

Funding and support for COVID-19 vaccination sites

The NHSE/I document on [funding and support available for PCN and Community Pharmacy-led COVID-19 vaccination sites](#) published last week, asked CCGs to seek to minimise any burden associated with locally commissioned services where these do not support COVID-19 vaccination and COVID-19 related activities.

Long COVID and weight management enhanced services

NHSE/I have published two new [enhanced services](#), relating to long-COVID and weight management. In addition, and following lobbying from BMA GPC, they have also confirmed a further welcome extension to pay the full sessional payment to PCN clinical directors, recognising the significant workload they have been carrying.

Long COVID plan for 2021/22

NHSE/I has this week published a [Long COVID plan for 2021/22](#) which outlines the 10 key next steps to be taken to support those suffering from long COVID. The plan is underpinned by a £100million investment, £30million of which will go towards the enhanced service, highlighted above, for general practice to support patients with long COVID. The remaining £70million will be used to expand other NHS long COVID services and establish 15 new [‘paediatric hubs’ to coordinate care for children and young people](#) who are suffering from the condition. These hubs will have specialists who can directly treat the children and young people, advise GPs or others caring for them or refer them into other





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

specialist services and clinics. The plan, which builds on the [five-point plan](#) for long COVID support outlined by NHSE/I last year, also highlights the need for equity of access, outcomes and experience in long COVID support.

Updated LMC HR Guidance (COVID-19)

We have recently updated our COVID-19 page on the LMC website. This includes updated HR guidance and links to helpful resources. Find them [here](#).

GP appointment data

The [GP appointment data for April](#) in England was published last week, with revised data so that it now also includes COVID vaccinations delivered via general practices. The figures for April 2021 (23.8 million) are very similar to those in April 2019 (23.85 million), but with an additional 7.5 million appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations.

There were also more appointments being seen within the same or next day (13.1m vs 11.8m), and within a week (18.2m vs 16.2m), compared to April 2019 despite the additional workload from the COVID vaccination programme.

This highlights the immense pressures that GPs and their teams continue to operate under, as they battle to provide care to their communities alongside the ever-increasing workload generated by the pandemic and associated backlog of patients needing care. Read BMA GPC's full statement [here](#).

PCN Handbook

The new PCN handbook for 2021/22 has now been published and is available on our [website](#). The handbook has been updated to include the changes agreed as part of the [2021/22 GP contract](#), including additional ARRS workforce and new PCN service specifications, as well as other operational aspects. The full service specification setting out the requirements of the PCN DES for 2021/22, as well as further guidance, is also available from [NHS England](#).

Requests from Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS)

It has been brought to our attention that a GIDS referral team has issued requests to some GPs in this area to undertake needs reviews of individuals on their waiting list. The correspondence we are aware of asks for GPs to review and support young people in light of GIDs wait times and also to confirm that individuals continue to meet the criteria for the service and wish to remain on the waiting list.

We have contacted the service about these requests, which are un-resourced and inappropriate at a time when general practice capacity is also challenged. Any review of young people who have been referred to GIDS should not be assumed to be the responsibility of their GP and it is unfair on the young people at the centre of these requests to place this expectation on their GP. The complex needs of some of these individuals also means that the requests could expect GPs to work outside of their





Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

competence. The LMC will support GP colleagues who feel they must respond to the service to advise they are unable to comply with such requests.

If you are in receipt of such a letter and require any further advice, please get in touch.

New PCSE pay and pensions system update

PCSE's new pay and pension system was launched on 1 June and we have been contacted by concerned practices and GPs about the disparities in information and the difficulty in finding the relevant information on the system. We would urge all GPs to log on and check their details and data. Any errors or issues identified should be [raised with PCSE](#) at the earliest opportunity.

PCSE have posted user guidance for [practices](#) and [GPs](#) on their website. We would encourage users to make use of them.

We are also looking to raise issues on behalf of our constituent practices with PCSE and would ask that if you are raising issues you make us aware also so that we can take them forward.

Proposed changes to annual complaints collection

NHS Digital has published their [response to their consultation on the proposed changes to the annual complaints collection \(K041b\)](#) and the plan for its reintroduction. These changes were initiated by the GP bureaucracy review NHS Digital paused the collection of the 2019/20 KO14B form, from general and dental practices, but have now confirmed that collections will resume from the 9 August to capture complaints recorded in 2020/21. The NHSD response sets out:

- A range of simplifying changes that will be introduced - some will commence at the next collection whilst others will commence at future collections.
- There will be an extended 12-week collection window for the next collection.
- Improvements to the portal to address specific technical issues that previously occurred, which should make the experience of uploading the return easier.

Sessional GP meeting

The next meeting for Sessional GPs is this Thursday 24th at 7pm. More details can be found [here](#). Please contact Rebecca to book a place.

