



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Monday 25th January 2021

Contract Agreement for 2021/22

In summary, from April:

- Funding increases previously agreed will be honoured
- Funding increase to global sum to allow a 2.1% uplift in pay
- QOF will be largely the same as for 2020/21 with some amendments to cancer and SMI domains to assist with the impact of the pandemic, and changes to vaccinations and immunisations as previously planned to continue with the move to an item of service payment arrangement for childhood vaccinations – these will see additional funding go into QOF
- QI modules from 20/21 to be repeated and slightly amended and the work already done will count towards this
- The core digital offer to patients has been defined, largely based on how practices are already operating due to the pandemic
- New ARRS roles will come on stream, with additional funding being made available to enable mental health practitioners to be part of the PCN workforce
- IIF 2020/12 indicators will remain unchanged. GPCE and NHSEI will have further discussion on other planned indicators for 2021/22, as the length and impact of the pandemic becomes clearer, utilising the additional investment to the IIF
- No new PCN service specifications from April (will be phased in later in the year with dates to be agreed depending on the pandemic), and current PCN services to receive minor amendments
- GPC England and NHSE/I will discuss the introduction (in-year) of a new enhanced service related to obesity and weight management

Full details are available on the BMA [website](#) and further guidance will be provided in due course.

PCN DES ballot results

In November, the LMC England conference passed the following resolution:

Conference notes that the BMA GPC (GP committee) England has never secured a robust democratic mandate for the PCN DES and so again asks the GPC England to secure a firm mandate from the entire profession by means of ballot before negotiating any extension or changes to the PCN DES for the year 2021 / 2022.

As a result, GPCE have completed a ballot, with the question based on the motion: “Prior to any further negotiations, extension or changes for 2021/22, do you give GPC England a mandate for the PCN directed enhanced service?”





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The result of the ballot was:

Yes: 80% (3,619)

No: 20% (915)

Total number responding: 4,534

This outcome provides a clear mandate from the profession for the PCN DES, and GPC England will therefore continue to negotiate on this, seeking improvements and further developing it, as part of the whole GP contract, for the benefit of practices and our patients. Read more [here](#)

COVID Vaccination Programme

From this week, people aged 70 and over and those clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 can be invited to get their vaccinations as the [roll out of the vaccination for the next 2 priority groups begins](#). Vaccinating the first two groups (care home residents and staff, and those aged 80 and over and frontline health and care staff) will remain the priority, but vaccination sites which have enough supply and capacity for vaccinating further people are allowed to offer vaccinations to the next 2 cohorts. BMA GPC have raised with NHSE/I concerns about the way invitation letters are being sent to patients, and that these are not coordinated with local practice group sites, causing potential confusion for some patients and unnecessary travelling to more remote vaccination centres.

Following the recent announcement about [additional funding to support the rapid delivery of vaccinations to care home staff and residents](#), NHSE/I has now published [Process for the payment of Item of Service fees and Care Home Supplement payments to PCN groupings](#). BMA GPC have raised concerns about the complexity of this process but PCNs bringing in additional workforce between now and the end of January to ensure that all records for vaccination of priority cohorts are up to date and recorded properly in Pinnacle will be eligible to claim up to £950 per week (a maximum of £2500 per PCN grouping) of funding support.

There have been some concerns about the availability of the COVID vaccine for private patients. The easiest way for private patients to access the vaccination programme is to temporarily register with an NHS practice involved in the vaccination programme. If they have not got an NHS number they will be provided with one as part of the registration process.

Securing enhanced and suitable PPE

In light of the continued spread of the new more transmissible variant of COVID-19, as well as growing evidence of aerosol transmission of the virus in non-AGP settings, the BMA is determined to ensure that every doctor is properly protected with adequate and suitable PPE. The [BMA has written to Public Health England](#) asking for an urgent review of their PPE guidance.

