



# Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## COVID-19 vaccination programme

### Vaccine cohorts

[All adults aged 18 and over](#) (cohort 12) in England are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines and will be receiving texts inviting them to book a vaccination via the national booking service, at an NHS vaccination centre, pharmacy or GP vaccination site.

### Vaccine supply

While the limited supplies of the Moderna vaccine have always been directed to mass vaccination sites, in recent weeks some areas across the country have reported seeing a significant reduction in the volume of Pfizer vaccine available and supplies are not meeting demand from those still to be vaccinated. This means some people waiting weeks for their first-dose appointment at a time when we need as many as possible to be protected as quickly as possible.

This is a national perspective, we have not been informed that this is a problem but have included it in this week's brieflet as an opportunity to ask Practices to let us know if this is the case.

### FAQs to support General Practice and students in Higher Education institutions

NHSE/I has published [FAQs to support general practice and higher education institutions](#), which advises that although in general, patients should return to the place they had their first dose to have their second dose, students in higher education are able to receive their second dose in a different location to their first dose if they have relocated. The National Booking Service has an option to book or re-arrange the second vaccination appointment at a different location to the first appointment.

### Exemptions for Care Workers

Following a public consultation, it was recently announced by the Government that, from October, [people working in care homes will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#).

This will impact those who visit care homes, including GPs and community teams. The government has said that a small number of people would be exempt and whilst they have indicated that individuals may be directed to their GP to provide evidence for their exemption, BMA GPC do not believe this should be the approach.

The government also plans to launch a further public consultation on whether or not to extend this to include all those employed in health and care settings. Read the [BMA's response](#) to the announcement on a consultation on mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for healthcare workers.





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## ICS Design Framework June 2021

In light of the publication of the ICS Design Framework we are reviewing this document and its implications for Primary Care and will look to put out a commentary in due course.

## New PCSE pay and pensions system update

BMA GPC have informed us that they have grown increasingly concerned about the volume of issues being raised about the new online portal for pay and pensions. The issues are wide-ranging and involve both historical migrated data and current data. They are aware of some of this data being incorrect, some of it being missing and still more just being unclear to users. It is affecting GPs' pension data in many instances, locum and solo performers being particularly affected, and there have also been early issues with some payment runs to practices. PCSE has assured that all of this is being addressed urgently.

BMA GPC, along with the Institute of General Practice Management, have [written to the Chief Commercial Officer of NHS England](#) to raise these concerns and demand urgent action to ensure that GPs and practices are able to use the system as intended as we approach a critical time for many users.

GP engagement with the new system remains low according to the data, so BMA GPC would urge GPs to log in and check their records as a priority and to [inform PCSE](#) of any errors. Also they ask all system users to make use of [PCSE's guidance materials](#).

## Delay in the roll out of patient data sharing programme (GDPR)

Following extensive lobbying by the BMA and RCGP, the government announced a delay to the rollout of GDPR, which amounts to two months with full rollout now expected on 1 September rather than 1 July. BMA GPC is now engaged in discussions with NHS Digital and other stakeholders to ensure no additional burden is placed on GPs to facilitate the implementation of this programme and have been lobbying MPs on this issue.

## Enhanced shared parental leave system for salaried GPs

The new [enhanced shared parental leave](#) system for salaried GPs has been launched across the UK and will allow for up to 50 weeks of the 52 weeks maternity leave to be shared between the parents. Eligible parents are also able to share up to 37 weeks of statutory shared parental pay (equivalent of statutory maternity pay). The ESPL system will be offered by employers at GMS and some PMS practices. Employees may request for this new form of leave to be included in their contracts, in line with provisions for junior doctors and agenda for change staff. This change to a more flexible form of leave supports the BMA's commitment to address the gender pay gap. [Find out more about enhanced shared parental leave entitlements](#) and read the updated [Salaried GPs handbook](#)

