



Dear Colleague

Please see below for your information our latest updates during the Covid-19 pandemic:

### **Physician Associate (PA) supervision support programme for GPs**

Health Education England has commissioned a Physician Associate (PA) recruitment and supervision support programme for any practices thinking of employing a PA for the first time. It is available for a limited time, at no cost to your practice. Through the programme experts will support:

- understanding the role, scope and benefits of employing a PA
- making sure your PA is seeing patients confidently, effectively, safely and efficiently
- understanding how services to patients can develop
- developing the PA role to benefit you in the long term.

Find [more information here](#), or email [info@our-path.co.uk](mailto:info@our-path.co.uk)

### **GMS and PMS regulations changes from October 2020 (England)**

The amendments to GMS and PMS regulations in England to commence from October have now been laid before Parliament and **published**. These mainly bring into force elements of the GP contract agreement from earlier this year. The amendments include:

- Requirement for monthly data submissions to the NHS Digital Workforce Collection
- Requirement to participate in the existing GP appointments data collection
- Requirement for practices to ensure patient registration data is regularly updated
- Removal of patients who move outside of the practice catchment area: the practice is responsible for the patient's care for up to 30 days (unless and until the patient registers at another practice) but is not responsible for home visits or out of hours services during that period.
- A modification to make sure that patients who have previously been removed from a practice list and been put onto a violent patient scheme cannot be permanently refused readmission to a practice list if they have been correctly discharged from that scheme.

- Patient assignment to any practice within the patient's local CCG, rather than within the practice area.
- Patient assignment as part of a list dispersal
- An exemption to the ban on subcontracting a subcontract in order to allow PCNs greater flexibility to deliver the DES
- Final cancellation of CQC registration is a ground for termination of a GMS contract
- Other minor amendments to wording without significant change to the meaning

### Redacting GP records

In June, GPC wrote to NHSE/I to raise concerns over the redaction of records and unintended consequences of any processes put in place to facilitate patient access to records. The letter sought reassurances that a) patients would not be able to view incoming correspondence before a GP has had the opportunity to review it and b) that the workload of GPs should not increase as a result of needing to review individual records and mark consultation notes for redaction. GPC have now received a response outlining what measures have been put in place to mitigate these concerns. They also received reassurances that where practices feel granting access to patients' records during the pandemic would have an adverse impact on provision of essential services, they are not required to do so. NHSE/I is now reviewing their patient-facing guidance on access to records to reflect these points.

### Registering patients prior to their release from secure residential estate (England)

As we reported last week, practices have a contractual obligation to support patients prior to their release from the secure residential estate, as set out in the [NHS England Standard General Medical Services \(GMS\) Contract 2017/18](#) . Practices are therefore asked to ensure that processes are in place to support this and information on how to do this [here](#) .

The [BMA guidance page on patient registration](#) has now been updated to reflect this clarification.

### Mental health and wellbeing

The BMA continues to offer [wellbeing services](#) and confidential 24/7 counselling and peer support for all doctors and medical students, as well as their partners and dependents, on 0330 123 1245. For hard copies of our Wellbeing [poster](#), please email [wellbeingsupport@bma.org.uk](mailto:wellbeingsupport@bma.org.uk)

Access the [BMA's COVID-19 wellbeing pages here](#)

## BMA Covid-19 Guidance

We continue to regularly update our [toolkit for GPs and practices](#), which includes a large range of topics relating to COVID-19. There is also guidance on the following topics:

- [Model terms of engagement for a GP providing temporary COVID-19 services](#)
- [Terms and conditions for sessional GPs](#)
- [Guidance on risk assessments](#) which includes specific information for practices.

Kind regards

The Kent Local Medical Committee



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*Supporting list based personalised care,  
the partnership model and meaningful collaboration*