



7th September 2020

Dear Colleague

Please see below our latest updates for your information:

Appraisal 2020

Following the suspension of appraisals at the end of March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NHSE/I has together with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, GMC and BMA, agreed to a rebalanced approach that focuses on the doctor's professional development and wellbeing, and simplifies expectations around supporting information and pre-appraisal paperwork.

The appraisal will be simplified as far as possible, and **NHSE/I has written to responsible officers** asking them to take a flexible approach, aiming to begin reinstating appraisals by 1 October, with a view to resuming normal levels of activity by 1 April 2021.

The BMA have been in discussion with NHSE/I to ensure the planned restart is not overly disruptive for practices while allowing public confidence to be maintained, and are encouraged by the significant simplification of the requirements and the reduction in paperwork, which allows both appraisers and appraisees to focus on treating patients rather than bureaucracy. This slimmed down system is a step forward in empowering doctors to use their appraisal to reflect on their professional development, and forms part of a wider drive by the BMA to reduce bureaucracy.

Read more about 'Appraisal 2020' on the [Academy of Medical Royal Colleges website](#) and the BMA full statement [here](#)

QOF

NHS England have now published revised QOF guidance which details the requirements for 2020/21. This includes detail of the following:

- The points and payment changes for the four flu vaccination and two cervical screening indicators;
- The indicators which will continue to be paid on a conditional basis;
- The refocused requirements for the Quality Improvement domain support the restoration of key services to people with a learning disability and early cancer diagnosis;
- The indicators which will be subject to income protection arrangements and the conditions upon this income protection.

This guidance is effective immediately and the Statement of Financial Entitlement will be amended shortly to reflect this.

You can access full details [here](#).

Flu specifications 2020/21 (England)

NHS England have now published the updated [flu specification for 2020/21](#) and the updated DES directions [here](#). The updated specification makes a number of changes to the previously published version, expanding the eligible groups, with potential further expansion later in the year. In addition when offering vaccination to eligible patients practices are encouraged to request that the patient advises the practice of their ethnicity status if they have not previously provided this information to the practice. Where provided by the patient or their carer, the practice must record the ethnicity information in the patient record. This is in order to improve data recording to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and any potential immunisation programme. Commissioners will invite practices to participate in the 2020/21 Flu DES before 7 September 2020 and practices will need to respond no later than 14 September. Additional BMA guidance and NHS England FAQs will be published shortly.

The NHS pension scheme as a sessional GP

Dr Krishan Aggarwal, a GPC England and Sessional GPs Committee member, and deputy chair of the BMA Pensions Committee, has written a webpage for sessional and locum GPs on the NHS pension scheme, which replaces his previous blogs on this issue.

The webpage is going to be a live document and if there is anything you would like to be covered please email us at Sessionalgps.gpc@bma.org.uk.

The guidance sets out which pension tier to use, submitting the right forms, annualisation, the total rewards statement (TRS), the upcoming the upcoming PCSE portal and how to escalate complaints to PCSE. The webpage is [here](#)

BMA Covid-19 Guidance

The BMA continue to regularly update their [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.

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

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

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee