



7th December 2020

Dear Colleague

Please see below our latest updates for your information:

Death Certification and Cremation pathway during Covid-19

Swale GP representative Reshma Syed has kindly shared lecture slides about death certification and the Crematorium Pathway during covid-19. You can find these on our website [here](#).

The LMC in the News

Kent LMC Chair, Garuav Gupta, spoke with BBC Kent last week regarding the roll out of the covid-19 vaccine, and the opportunities and challenges it brings.

Click [here](#) to go to the BBC Sounds website and fast forward to 1 hour 22 minutes to listen to the piece.

Christmas and New Year period (England)

As highlighted in the [NHSE/1 primary care bulletin](#) this week, general practices are not expected to open for delivery of core services over the weekend and bank holidays for this coming Christmas and New Year period. Local commissioners and primary care providers can therefore continue to plan on the basis of their planned cover arrangements.

This followed the concerns that we had raised of the importance of all those working in general practice needing time off during the Christmas bank holiday to rest after the difficult year we've had.

Guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people (England)

As of 2 December, lockdown has ended in England and [returned to a regionally differentiated three-tiered system](#). Due to this, the government has sent [a letter](#) this week with updated guidance to all clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people on the Shielded Patient List.

In each tier, there is a set of rules that everyone in that area must follow. The letter, which sets out the new guidance, no longer advises CEV people to stay away from work or school, but does suggest limiting the number of social interactions. Read the government's [guidance for clinically extremely vulnerable people at each local tier](#).

The DHSC has also announced that people on the CEV list and those in residential and nursing care homes [will receive free winter supply of Vitamin D](#) to help support general health, in particular bone and muscle health, during the winter months, which is even more important for those that have been shielding and may not have been able to obtain enough vitamin D from sunlight.

NHS Digital has published [letter templates for high-risk patients](#) for use by GPs when notifying patients newly identified as clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19.

The BMA has also updated its [guidance about clinically extremely vulnerable people](#).

Accessing your GP animation

To support general practice, the NHSE/I has created [an animation to help explain to the public how they can continue to access GP services](#), including how to get in contact, the different ways care may be delivered, and how face-to-face appointments have changed.

CQC review of the use of do not resuscitate decisions during COVID-19

The CQC has produced the attached briefing clarifying how it will be undertaking a [DHSC requested review](#) of the use of 'do not resuscitate' decisions during COVID-19 (made after 17 March 2020).

Some practices have already raised concerns regarding CQC 'spot checks' or communications from CCGs. Please note that these reviews are not CQC practice inspections and reports of review visits will not be published. If CQC do find examples in records which raise concerns about the way DNACPR decisions were made it will feed this back to the practice and to the CCG. CQC will also provide information to its local CQC inspection team as part of their routine monitoring.

As you may recall, we recently wrote to Matt Hancock calling for an immediate suspension of all CQC inspections and reviews of general practice (other than those required for serious safety issues) for the duration of the pandemic to enable practices to focus on other priorities, not least the COVID-19 vaccination programme. This was also reported by [BBC news online](#).

Conference of England LMCs 2020

The virtual England LMC Conference took place last Friday, 27 November 2020. [This document](#) details the conference resolutions, election results and motions lost.

You can watch the webcast of the conference [here](#). The [agenda](#), is also available on the [BMA website](#).

Watch some edited highlights from the conference on the [BMA GP twitter page](#)

The [BMJ](#) reported on the motion which called for partners to receive same pay rise as salaried colleagues.

Cameron Fund Christmas Appeal

This year and subsequent years will be difficult for the [Cameron Fund](#), which is the only medical benevolent fund that solely supports GPs and their dependents, as the Fund faces increased pressure from those affected by the COVID crisis and a reduced income from investments. As such, they have launched a Christmas appeal to try and raise more money for the Fund to be able to help more GPs in need. Read more in the attached letter from Dr Ian Winterton, Cameron Fund Treasurer and on the [Cameron Fund website](#)

GP trainees mileage payment

NHS Employers and the BMA have published joint [guidance](#) for the reimbursement of home to principle place of work mileage for trainees in a GP practice. The guidance will provide the necessary information for employing organisations on operationalising the current provisions in

the absence of an updated version of the terms and conditions. This is applicable to both back dated and future claims.

Institute of General Practice Management

A new organisation representing Practice Managers has now been formed and is called *Institute of General Practice Management*. A website is currently being designed by Wessex LMCs and there is currently a Facebook page (Institute of General Practice Management) and twitter @TheIGPM. The next webinar for all PMs is on Wednesday 16th December at 5.00 p.m. – all this information is on the Facebook page and twitter.

Integrated Care Systems consultation (England)

Following the publication of the NHSE/I [consultation](#) last week about the next steps for ICSs, which raises some fundamental issues about how the NHS will be structured and work in the future, Richard Vautrey, Chair of the GPC, was quoted in an [article by the BMJ](#): that the changes offered an opportunity to “undo some of the damage” caused by the 2012 NHS reforms, but warned, “This must not be done in a way that is counter productive, and [he has] serious concerns about the risk of vertical integration, which would lead to an end to the independent contractor model for general practice.” He also stressed the crucial role that LMCs should play in enabling the voice of all GPs to be heard at all levels within a regional structure.

Parental leave webinar and workshop

We will be hosting a workshop for [GPs on parental leave](#) next week, 9 December from 12.30pm – 2.30pm – *Workshop - ‘GP maternity’*. Register [here](#)

If you would like to submit questions in advance to be covered at either session, please contact Christopher Scott via cscott@bma.org.uk

COVID-19 guidance

Read the BMA's [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and practices](#), to help answer questions on 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](#)
- [Risk assessments](#)

We have also updated our website to include a range of information that will support your practice during the pandemic:

- [Covid 19 Resources](#)
- [GP and GP staff wellbeing](#)

Kind Regards
Kent Local Medical Committee