



17th December 2020

Dear Colleague

Please see below our latest updates for your information:

GP Appraisal until April 2021

GP appraisals have been revised with a view to reducing the burden of pre-appraisal paperwork whilst retaining focus on a doctor's professional development and wellbeing. Currently the expectation is that normal appraisals will resume from April 2021 but we imagine this would be dependent on a number of factors relating to the pandemic.

Although it is not the pause that we have been hoping for, we have been encouraged by the simplification of the process that allows appraisers and appraisees to prioritise patients over bureaucracy. However, general practice is still facing significant challenges delivering the largest flu vaccination campaign in the history of the NHS while being at the forefront of the Covid vaccination campaign so please do not hesitate to contact us if you are experiencing particular challenges with your appraisal.

RCGP & BMA Guidance on Workload Prioritisation

The combination of the second wave of the pandemic, the covid and flu vaccination programmes, and growing routine demand creating a perfect storm for the general practice workforce, it is important that practices take stock of their options to manage workload. We had been hopeful that there would be a clear steer from NHS England and Improvement on this matter, but in its absence we strongly recommend that you consider the following guidance when taking steps to address workload.

The guidance has been jointly developed by the BMA and the RCGP and consists of two parts: [Covid-19 Response levels](#) – broadly outlines what work could be undertaken according to the Covid-19 prevalence within the community.

[Workload prioritisation during Covid-19](#) – list individual activities undertaken in practice and which can be safely put on hold while priority is given to those that are immediately essential to patient care.

Flu Vaccinations for Housebound Patients

We understand that due to capacity issues with vaccination of housebound flu patients Community Providers have been unable to vaccinate all housebound flu patients. In view of this the CCG has agreed an additional payment to practices of £11 to vaccinate these patients. However, if you do not have the capacity or desire to do this work then we have agreed with the CCG that a service would need to be commissioned for these patients.

COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings

Public Health has updated its [guidance](#) on the management of staff and patients or residents in health and social care settings according to exposures, symptoms and test results.

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee