

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

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a. WELCOME

Welcome to our recent newsletter.

We recognise that during the Covid19 pandemic there has been lots of information being sent to practices, but now feels appropriate to update our members. The LMC has continued to work hard representing our constituents, whether that is through the many CCG Covid19 meetings, which Dr Fahreen Dhanji has consistently been in attendance from the LMC. The liaison meetings with the CCGs Chairs and Senior team to strengthen working relationships, as well as meeting with the Strategic Clinical Directors. We continue to attend a variety of other meetings that have changed to

a virtual platform, as well as the weekly virtual LMC board meeting to discuss key issues and themes that arise.

We continue to support and represent our members, and we thought it would be beneficial to share information to the most asked queries.

b. ENGAGE CONSULT

Practices have fed back to the LMC that they are receiving pressure from the CCG to implement Engage Consult within their practice. We have escalated the issues both nationally and locally.

The key message is that there is no contractual target nor a deadline for practices to implement online consultations. However, there is an ambition to provide an online service for patients that offers self-triage.

During the Covid19 crisis, practices have changed their ways of working remarkably and seamlessly to benefit their patients and workforce, with some practices finding implementing Engage Consult a challenge and an ask too far in these current testing times.

Following discussions with CCG, we recognise that Engage Consult might not still be the right platform for practices, so a task and finish group has been set up, which the LMC is a part of with the aim to re- think and re scope the offer for a total workflow triage model that's fit for purpose. We will ensure to keep you updated as progress develops.

c. PCN DES

By 31st May 2020, each practice must decide if they wish to remain signed up to the PCN DES and inform the CCG of your decision.

Our colleagues at London LMC have produced a balanced [table](#) which highlights the implications of both the "Opt In" and the "Opt Out" options.

d. PCN CARE HOMES INITIATIVE

The LMC is sighted on the recent NHSE letter regarding the expectation and implementation of general practice support around care homes. The LMC is working with the CCG to identify the gaps in LLR to construct a proposal that allows for flexibility and we expect to see appropriate resourcing attached.

This is not currently a contractual requirement, but this could easily be changed and the LMC will ensure to keep an eye on this and let our members know if anything changes.

e. SAFEGUARDING REPORTS

We continue to lobby for the reimbursement of professional time for the completion of safeguarding reports. The LMC would encourage GPs to invoice the CCG at Primarycare@Leicestercityccg.nhs.uk for any safeguarding reports completed.

The LMC would support any GPs in taking action against unpaid invoices.

f. QOF

QOF financial payments are protected for 2020-21 and is based on the better of 18/19 or 19/20. There is great uncertainty about the COVID pandemic and whether we might see a second wave therefore currently the best advice would be to provide areas of QOF where clinically appropriate and safe.

g. REMOTE VERIFICATION OF DEATH PROTOCOL

Dr Grant Ingrams, LMC Board member has developed the [Remote verification of death \(RVOD\) protocol](#) which has been endorsed by Professor Mason (Senior Coroner, Leicester and South Leicestershire), Mr Kirkman (Senior Coroner, North Leicestershire and Rutland) and all three LLR CCGs.

It is consistent with the recently published joint BMA and RCGP guidelines.

h. SHORT PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE COMPLETION OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATES OF CAUSE OF DEATH AND FORM CREMATION 4

The LMC has produced a short [practical guide for the completion of medical certificates of cause of death and form cremation 4](#) for LLR GPs. This has been agreed by

Professor C Mason (Senior Coroner, Leicester City and Leicestershire South) and Mr T H Kirkman (Senior Coroner, Leicestershire North and Rutland). We recommend that you keep a copy in your MCCD book for easy reference.

LLR LMC has been made aware that the Registrars currently have to return an increased number of MCCDs to GPs due to minor errors. The commonest issues are that either not all questions have been answered, or the photo emailed does not include the whole of both sides of the MCCDs. This creates more work for the Registrars and practices and can delay the registration of death.

Please ensure that all original copies of completed MCCDs are forwarded each month to the appropriate registrar

i. PRACTICE STAFF SALARY UPLIFT

Lots of practices have asked whether they need to give their practice staff a pay increase.

It is for practices to determine the level of uplift for their staff. There was no expectation for any specific increase, but practices have been given a 1.8% increase for the annual uplift which is in line with CPI.

There is a compounding factor due to implementation of minimum living wage, so many staff will get an increase significantly above this amount.

Finally, the DDRB has not yet produced a report which normally includes an uplift for salaried GPs (this will probably be delayed until summer) which will be backdated to April.

j. COVID – SELF DISTANCING/SHIELDING/SELF-ISOLATING FLOW CHART

The LMC has produced a [clear and simple flow chart](#) which explains whether someone should be self-distancing, shielding or self-isolating. This has now been updated following the change to the recognised Covid19 symptoms.

k. OOH CLINICAL SUPERVISORS. REDUCTION IN REMUNERATION ENHANCEMENT

The LMC has been sighted to the recent communication to OOH Clinical supervisors regarding the reduction to their remuneration enhancement. The LMC has written to DHU to express our concerns.

We hope DHU review this favorably following feedback from our members and are awaiting a response.

l. RISK REDUCTION FRAMEWORK FOR NHS STAFF AT RISK OF COVID-19 INFECTION

There is evidence that particular ethnic groups are at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

The University of Leicester have developed a risk reduction framework which practices can use if they wish:

<https://le.ac.uk/research/coronavirus/risk-reduction-framework>

<https://www.fom.ac.uk/covid-19/update-risk-reduction-framework-for-nhs-staff-at-risk-of-covid-19-infection>

This is an advisory document on how GP practices as employers may choose to carry out risk assessments to keep staff safe. This includes staff returning to work for the NHS, and existing staff who are potentially more at risk due to their race, age, disability or pregnancy. This advice is in an interim basis awaiting publication by NHS Employers and/or NHSE and has been agreed by the Primary Care Leadership group.

m. GUIDANCE NOTE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL FROM 1ST JUNE 2020

With thanks to South Staffordshire LMC, practices may wish to use the attached [template](#) and put it on practice letterheaded paper to give out to parents, if you get questions regarding children returning to school.

n. NATIONAL FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME 2020/21

NHSE recently circulated the guidance on national flu programme for 20/21. Practices should be planning to deliver the 2020/21 Flu immunisation programme in accordance with [a letter](#) published by NHSE. Full details in the letter but in summary:

- 65s and over – aTIV. (QIVc if aTIV is unavailable)
- Under-65s at risk, including pregnant women, - QIVc (QIVe an acceptable alternative)
- Childhood Flu – as before.

o. CCG PRIMARY CARE CONTRACT TEAM EMAIL

Our CCG colleagues have asked us to help share their recent comms to our members regarding the recent generic email address they wish for practices to use when contacting the primary care contracts team for contractual matters e.g. boundary changes, S106 support, premises queries, lease changes and name changes and contract variations.

A copy of the comms can be found [here](#).

p. OFFERS TO NHS STAFF

NHSE have provided the list of offers available to NHS staff in one place -

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/nhs-staff-offers/>

q. RECRUITMENT

If you are advertising a position within your practice, we would be happy to include it on our 'jobs' section of our website for free.

To advertise a vacancy, send the job advert and job description to enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk

Telephone: 0116 2962950

Email: enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk