

WELCOME TO OUR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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a. WELCOME

Welcome to our November Newsletter.

b. COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

There has been lots of debate and discussion regarding the Covid19 vaccination programme, with details changing daily at the moment.

Richard Vautrey, Chair GPC has issued the following [statement](#).

The LMC has recently sent an email to all our members on Covid-19 vaccines. A copy of the email can be found [here](#).

We await the details of the specification for the Covid19 Vaccination Programme ES to be released imminently.

c. INQUEST REPORTS

The LMC has been contacted by constituents saying they would like to receive inquest reports for audit or CPD purposes. We have discussed this with the Senior Coroners, who advise that in the past when they have sent these to practices, they have been returned to the Coroner with a note saying that the patient is no longer registered.

We have agreed with the Senior Coroners that when writing to practices for a practice report regarding a death they are investigating they will ask whether the practice wishes to receive a copy of the report. Otherwise a practice can contact the coroner and ask for a copy of the report separately.

Please ensure that your administrators are aware not to return any report to the coroner.

d. NEW FOSTERING HEALTH ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The LMC in conjunction with the Local Authority Fostering team has developed the fostering medical forms and will be encouraging GPs to undertake remote consultations with all fostering applicants (mainstream and connected).

The relevant letters and forms have been uploaded to our website and available via the [attached link](#).

e. FREE VITAMIN D SUPPLEMENTATION SCHEME

Once again, the DHSC has issued a press release before informing practices of a new scheme. This scheme involves supplying at-risk patients with 4 months' worth of Vitamin D. Please see the full statement from the

DHSC below, but in summary the LMC suggest that practices advise their reception/practice team that:

1. This is a national scheme, and general practice is not involved.
2. The government will send free supplies to people who they identify as higher risk in January 2021. General practices are not involved in identifying which people will be sent the Vitamin D supplements.
3. If patients want to take Vitamin D supplements and are not in the higher risk group then national policy is that they should buy it over the counter – it will not be available on an NHS prescription.

To read the article in full, click [here](#).

f. REMINDER FOR PRACTICE TO REPORT PRACTICE STAFF THAT HAVE RECEIVED FLU VACCINE

We have been informed by NHSE Regional team that the reporting for practice staff (clinical and non-clinical) including locum staff remains low in LLR.

Immuform is currently closed for reporting but will open again on 1/12/2020 with next submission date 9/12/2020.

Practices are reminded to update the flu form for staff and ensure they are appropriately coded.

g. GP'S MATERNITY PAY AND OTHER TYPES OF PARENTAL LEAVE

The BMA has published [guidance regarding all different types of parental leave](#) which may be helpful for practices and PMS.

BMA will be hosting a webinar and workshop for more in-depth guidance on these issues:

- 2 December from 12.30pm – 2.00pm: *Webinar - 'GP Maternity and Parental leave Guide: launch and introduction to the guide'*.
- 9 December from 12.30pm – 2.30pm – *Workshop - 'GP maternity'*.

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

h. CHRISTMAS EVE AND NEW YEARS EVE SUB-CONTRACTING

Thank you to all practices that have opted-in to the LLR LMC sub-contracting arrangement provided by DHU on Christmas eve and New Year's Eve (4.00 – 6.30pm).

The deadline closed on Friday 27th November for practices to opt-in to the LMC sub-contracting arrangement. to allow DHU to prepare its workforce. It is unlikely that we will be able to accept any late applications due to DHU having to prepare its workforce.

A confirmation email with the details and the number for DHU will be sent in due course to all practices signed up.

i. CQC UPDATE – TRANSITIONAL MONITORING APPROACH

Following the Emergency Support Framework that was implemented at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, CQC have now updated this into a [Transitional Monitoring Approach](#).

In summary, CQC will monitor practices using existing data sources and the relationship between the practice and their inspector and if there are perceived issues about safety, leadership or access to services, they will arrange for an inspector to call (predominantly using MS Teams). This call will then inform whether any further inspection activity will be required. The monitoring questions they will use can be found [here](#).

It is anticipated that the majority of LLR practices will undertake a TMA before May 2021.

j. GP CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

In a recent Primary Care update they included the attached letter to practices advising them of [changes to the GP contract from 1 October 2020](#) to implement the agreements reached with the BMA in 2020/21.

- suspension of the requirement that practices report to commissioners about the Friends and Family Test returns
- temporary suspension of the requirement for individual patient consent in certain circumstances, in order to encourage increased use of electronic repeat dispensing (eRD)2.
- continuation of the temporary increase in the number of appointment slots that practices must make available for direct booking by 111 to 1 slot per 500 patients per day (this can be reduced if demand isn't there).

The [amendments to the Regulations](#) are available online. The letter also outlines the extension of temporary changes to GP contract under the pandemic regulations.

k. GENERAL PRACTICE REFERRAL TO COMMUNITY PHARMACIST CONSULTATION SERVICE (CPCS) - MIDLANDS ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Since NHS 111 referral to CPCS started in October 2019, over half a million consultations for urgent medicines supply and minor illnesses have been successfully completed by community pharmacists across England, thereby increasing capacity in urgent care settings for more complex patients.

The scope of CPCS has now been extended so that General Practice can also electronically refer patients with minor illnesses to community pharmacists.

The new service enables practice teams to channel defined minor illness patients directly to a community pharmacist for their first contact where they will receive clinical assessment and advice.

NHSE are running two engagement sessions to support the roll out of the service across the Midlands Region.

To join either event please use the links below.

- [Wednesday 2nd December 2020 13:00 – 14:30.](#)
- [Thursday 3rd December 2020 19:00 – 20:30.](#)

To read more information, [click here.](#)

l. TRANSFERRING CARE SAFELY GROUP NEWSLETTER

The first edition of the Transferring Care Safely Group newsletter has been published, click [here](#) to view.

- *Attachment 1:* [New Requests from Primary Care Non-Medical Referrers to Request for Imaging Examinations - Proposal Form](#)
- *Attachment 2:* [Policy for the Requesting of Imaging Examinations by Non-medically Qualified Professionals](#)

We would encourage all LLR practices to use the TCS service to report incidents of inappropriate transfer of work from Secondary Care to Primary Care.

m. LETTER TO CQC ON SUPPORTING GENERAL PRACTICE DURING A PERIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED PRESSURE

The BMA has written the attached letter to the CQC again urging them to immediately halt all non-essential inspections and practice monitoring to allow GPs and their teams, currently under immense pressure, to focus on the job at hand during the pandemic.

We made clear to the CQC that, in addition to delivering flu vaccinations to 30 million patients in England this year (and also leading the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination campaign), GPs and their teams must be supported and enabled to provide care that best serves the needs of their patients, in a way that adds most clinical value and keeps patients, clinicians and staff safe - it is imperative that they are not distracted from their primary focus of ensuring the ongoing care of their patients.

The LMC has written to the local inspectors regarding their intentions of inspections during second lockdown – at this moment in time, they are planning to proceed as normal with practices in special measures inspections and TMA calls.

n. NEW TO PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Nationally, practices are now making applications so that their new partners can benefit from the new to partnership payment scheme.

We would encourage all practices with partners who have joined the practice since 1st April 2020 to do so. However, there may be a potential issue with the [‘New to Partnership Payment Scheme’](#) which apply to new clinical partners from 1 April 2020, causing a 'catch 22' situation. We know that new partners often commence with fixed share 'probationary' period before moving to a full equity share within the partnership.

Recently the GPC on behalf of primary care, have discussed this issue with NHSE/I and have agreed that in these situations, an individual will be accepted on to the scheme once they become a shareholding partner on an equity basis, as long as the probationary period commenced after 1 April 2020.

NHSE/I has also considered the barriers to individuals obtaining the evidence required to support their application to the [New to partnership Payment Scheme](#), and have identified alternative evidence that can be submitted:

- Where a Partnership Agreement is not available, a headed letter from the practice to confirm details will be accepted.

- To evidence the practice contract type NHSE/I will now check the CQC website to obtain this information for GMS and PMS contracts. They will still require a copy of any APMS contracts.

These changes are effective immediately and the NHSE [guidance documents](#) have been updated. Those who have already applied to the scheme will be contacted by NHSE/I and do not need to reapply.

o. NHSPS CHARGING FOR COVID-19 RELATED REQUESTS (ENGLAND)

NHS Property Services (NHSPS) announced its intention to increase service charges and facilities service charges for practices across England to meet costs associated with COVID-19. This is a deeply disappointing decision made unilaterally by NHSPS, and will be extremely unwelcome news to NHSPS practices.

The GPC premises policy lead Dr Gaurav Gupta wrote to acting Chief Executive of NHSPS Mark Steele NHS PS seeking an immediate reversal of this increase to charges. In his letter, he set out the extraordinary challenges facing General Practice and the severely misjudged nature and timing of this decision taken to increase financial pressure on an already beleaguered profession as it prepares for a second wave of the pandemic.

Practices have received increasingly unreasonable and inflated service charge demands from NHSPS for several years. These demands are often made without reference to contractual arrangements (or lack thereof), and practices are rarely even given an itemised list of charges. We continue to advise that practices should only make payments if they agree with the legal basis on which they are due. You can find more guidance on this issue [here](#).

p. GPC ENGLAND UPDATE – NOVEMBER

Dr Anu Rao, LMC Board Member and GPC Member has provided a summary from the recent GPC England meeting.

q. FLU VACCINE ORDERING FOR 2021

The LMC has received several questions relating to the reimbursement rate from NHSE for next year's flu vaccine and JCVI guidance.

Attached is the link to the JCVI guidance for flu vaccines for 2021/22:

<https://app.box.com/s/t5ockz9bb6xw6t2mrrzb144njpli/mfo0/file/737845224649>

NHSE reimbursement figures can be found [here](#), click on the individual vaccines and a breakdown will appear.

r. RECRUITMENT

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

This a free service, practices just need to send the job advert and job description to enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk

Telephone: 0116 2962950

Email: enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk