

Welcome to our April 2021 Newsletter!

Index:

- a. Flu Vaccination Programme 21/22
- b. QOF 2021/22
- c. D4 Medical Exams – DVLA update
- d. Important update regarding cremation form 4 & Medical Certificate cause of death
- e. 2.1% pay and expenses increase
- f. Personal Coaching opportunity for LLR GPs
- g. Donation to the Cameron Fund
- h. GP Contract update (pandemic regulations)
- i. Upcoming LMC webinars
- j. Improving GP appointment data
- k. Flu vaccination 20/21 achievement and plans for 2021/22
- l. CQC remote searches mythbuster
- m. Cancard Requests
- n. Presentation from Contract Changes webinar
- o. NHSPS – Service charges dispute
- p. Recruitment

a. FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME 21/22

The GPC have provided the following update to LMCs in their recent communications on next year's flu programme.

We have now received confirmation from NHSEI that there will not be central procurement of flu vaccine for the coming year's scheme, but the at-risk group will be extended as it was this year. Practices should therefore, where this is possible due to the late notice, take this into account when placing orders. The annual flu reimbursement letter was updated on 1 April. A copy of the latest version can be found [here](#).

The letter confirmed that those aged 50-64 year old will be included in the 21/22 flu programme and also confirmed the inclusion of a QIVr vaccine (Supemtek).

b. QOF 2021/22

We have received several queries relating to the status and expectation for QOF 21/22.

The NHSE/I letter and QOF guidance for 2021/22, [click here](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has published the [amended QOF SFE for 2020/21](#)

The GPC recognises the concerns expressed by LMCs and, as a result of the GPC lobbying, they did secure a further £120m for practices from April and pushed back the PCN service specifications and new IIF targets until at least October.

c. D4 MEDICAL EXAMS - DVLA UPDATE

The DVLA and GPC has provided the following update on applying for and renewing lorry and bus licence with a D4 medical form. The following guidance is aimed at people applying for bus and lorry licences, but we want to share with practices as it will be shared on the DVLA website next week.

In consultation with the British Medical Association (BMA), GPs have agreed to aim to accommodate D4 medical appointments for working drivers to make sure that they are available to the transport industry.

To read the full guidance that will be issued on the DVLA website, [click here](#).

d. IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING CREMATION FORM 4 AND MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

The LMC have made some changes to the Cremation Form 4 process. If you use the PRISM version on SystemOne there is now an option to digitally sign the document.

A completed cremation form 4 contains confidential information and due to this should not be sent via email unless there is encryption. Otherwise, there is a risk that a breach of data protection regulations may occur. It has been agreed that when sending the form to a funeral director, the practice should use an NHS mail account using the embedded Egress encryption service. Guidance on how to use this is attached and is also available via the PRISM form.

There have been repeated errors in completing both the Cremation Form 4 and the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD). These: slow down the process; are causing registrars, crematoria and coroners additional work; and have caused delays for funerals.

The article can be found [here](#) with the appropriate attachments.

e. 2.1% PAY AND EXPENSES INCREASE

Further to the contract changes webinar, we have received several questions relating to the 2.1% pay and expenses increase.

We have clarified this with Krishna Kasaerani (GPC Executive) and he has confirmed the following *'the increase to practice funding is designed to deliver a 2.1 % pay uplift for all staff apart from salaried GPs. BMA GPC's position is that it is passed on to staff. In reality it comes down to the individual's contract with the practice in relation to the pay uplift. If the practice has specific questions in relation to it, it would be more appropriate to direct them to the BMA's employer advisory service so that they receive the right employment support in relation to it.*

For salaried GPs, the pay uplift will be decided by the government following the recommendation of the DDRB and we are expecting this to be published soon'.

f. PERSONAL COACHING OPPORTUNITY FOR LLR GPs

In conjunction with the CCG, the LMC is pleased to offer 14 LLR GPs (GP Partners or Salaried GPs) with the opportunity to access individual personal coaching sessions delivered by 'We are Beyond'.

You can view more information and how you can register on our [Training and Events programme page](#).

g. DONATION TO THE CAMERON FUND

Following the Christmas & NYE sub-contracting arrangement, we can now confirm that we have made a donation of £1,100 from the surplus to the [Cameron Fund](#).

The link provides further information on this year's chosen charity by the LMC board.

h. GP CONTRACT UPDATE (PANDEMIC REGULATIONS)

NHSEI has confirmed that the temporary changes to the GP contract under the pandemic regulations which were due to lapse at the end of March have now been extended until 30 June 2021.

As with previously, this means:

- a continued suspension of the Friends and Family Test requirement
- a continued suspension of the requirement for individual patient consent for electronic repeat dispensing (eRD)
- a continuation of the amendment to NHS 111 direct booking - sufficient slots available for NHS 111 to refer into a triage list; for most practices offering 1 per 3000 is likely to be sufficient but this can increase to 1 per 500 if demand requires.

i. UPCOMING LMC WEBINARS

The LMC will be hosting the upcoming webinars which are open to all our members to attend:

- CQC Update - 20th April
- Partnership Change & GP Property Webinar - 19th May

To read more about the content of the webinars and register, you can view details - [LLR LMC: Training & Events programme](#)

j. IMPROVING GP APPOINTMENT DATA

NHSE/I has published information aimed at improving the quality of [GP appointment data](#). This is to ensure that published general practice appointment data fairly represents the appointment activity carried out across practices and general practice providers in England.

This year's PCN Investment and Impact Fund provides additional funding to support this through an indicator covering the mapping of appointment slot types to the

new set of national appointment categories by all practices within the PCN. This should only require a short one-off exercise, mapping each slot type that the practice uses to one of the national categories. Practices should note that this only relates to appointments from 1 April 2021 onwards and shouldn't require changes to wider processes or appointment books.

k. FLU VACCINATION 20/21 ACHIEVEMENT AND PLANS FOR 2021/22

On 1 April 2021, a [letter from Professor Stephen Powis](#) was published both commending the achievements of practices and developments made with regards to the NHS Annual Influenza Vaccination Programme during 2020/2021, referred to as 'the most successful in the history of the programme', especially considering the roll out took place during a pandemic, and outlining further details for the 21/22 programme in England. 81% of people aged 65 years and over were vaccinated and 52% of those under 65 years who are at clinical risk. This was a remarkable achievement and down to the hard work of many practices.

The letter also outlines that practices should plan for the immunisation of 50-64 year olds again.

GPC are seeking clarification and we will feedback to practices as soon as possible.

l. CQC REMOTE SEARCHES MYTHBUSTER

As will be explained at the CQC webinar on the 20th April, CQC inspections generally have a remote searches part to them.

Practices may wish to read the mythbuster link – [Accessing medical records during inspections](#).

m. CANCARD REQUESTS

The LMC has been approached regarding Cancard requests.

Cancard is a card that is designed with the help of doctors, backed by senior representatives of the Police Federation and made for patients. Despite cannabis medicines becoming legal in 2018, patients unable to afford a costly prescription are stuck in limbo, Cancard aims to bridge the gap between patients, doctors and the police. The card allows for the police to exercise

discretion by understanding that the patient caught in possession is medicating for their condition.

The GPC have issued the following update relating to ['Cancard Requests - BMA and RCGP statement on 'Cancard'](#)

n. PRESENTATION FROM CONTRACT CHANGES 21/22 WEBINAR

The LMC recently hosted a GMS Contract Changes for 21/22 which was delivered by Dr Kasaraneni (GPC Executive). A [copy of the presentation](#) is available and the recording will be available shortly.

o. NHSPS - SERVICE CHARGES DISPUTE (ENGLAND)

The BMA supported five GP practices to bring a legal challenge against NHSPS try to clarify the legal basis for NHSPS's dramatic increases in how service charges are calculated. The BMA now continues to support the same practices to defend legal proceedings brought against them by NHSPS in response to their claims. It is extremely concerning that NHSPS - a company owned by the Department of Health and Social Care - are pursuing this course at a time when frontline doctors are facing a national health crisis.

Through the legal action, NHSPS have admitted that they cannot rely on the Charging Policy in isolation as a legal basis to increase charges- as we have said all along. As set out in a letter to practices, the BMA now recommends that GP practices facing similar demands for increased service charges that have not been explained to these five practices should insist that NHSPS provide a full explanation of the legal and factual basis on which their charges have been increased. To assist practices, GPC have prepared a template letter for you to amend as appropriate and send to NHSPS.

[LLR LMC: Updated April 21: NHSPS SERVICE CHARGES DISPUTE \(England\)](#)

p. RECRUITMENT

If you have a vacancy within your practice, we are happy to advertise the position through our website at no charge.

Simply send us a copy of the advert and job description to enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk.

Telephone: 0116 2962950

Email: enquiries@llrlmc.co.uk