

Coronavirus - LMC Update May 7th 2020

FAQs – May 7th 2020

Our updated FAQs based on queries to the LMC from practices. If you have a query it's worth checking the FAQs first.

[View our updated FAQs.](#)

Care Homes

You will have received the latest [NHSEI letter to NHS organisations](#) setting out the second phase of NHS response to COVID- 19. The letter outlined what practices have already been doing in proactively contacting their high-risk patients with ongoing care needs, including those in the 'shielding' cohort, to ensure they are accessing needed care and are receiving their medications. It highlighted that practices should continue to triage all patients, complete work on implementing digital and video consultations, and deliver as much routine and preventative work as can be provided safely including vaccinations immunisations, and screening.

GPC England provided us with the following update:

“With the nationally recognised increase in the number of deaths of patients in care homes there is now a greater and long overdue focus on the need to provide greater support for care homes. The letter suggested that one part of this response would be to bring forward key components of the Enhanced Care in Care Homes service, planned to begin in October. It was disappointing to see this expressed intention and we were clear with government ministers and NHSEI that this approach was unacceptable.

As a result, and following discussion with NHSEI and government, changes have been made which now stress the importance of supporting practices and other community providers to do what most are already doing, working hard to care for their patients in care homes. This new guidance can be found [here](#). It is now important that practices use this guidance, working with others in their area, including LMCs, to do what they can to support their local care homes at this critical time.”

Testing for Key Workers

We have created a new web page which provides details of the processes to follow in the Humber area for testing key workers. Our recommendation is that practices refer their self-isolating staff for a test through the CCG co-ordinated routes as this gives preferential booking status, unlike the self-referral route.

[View our COVID-19 – key worker testing page.](#)

May 8th Bank Holiday

GP opening on 8th May is not mandated by NHSE/I and will depend on local anticipated demand. NHSE/I have requested that practices agree locally with their CCGs if they need to be open. CCGs are providing specific advice on your local arrangements.

All community pharmacies in England are required to open 2-5pm with exceptions or a variation to those hours, based on the likely demand and local needs, agreed in advance with the NHSE/I regional team. Our colleagues at Community Pharmacy Humber have shared local pharmacy bank holiday opening hours [here](#).

Verification of Death and Cremation Forms

BMA guidance for GPs has now been published on the BMA's death certification and cremation webpage which outlines the key issues, protocols and principles that should be considered during this period of COVID 19 for verification of death, completing MCCDs and cremations forms. View the BMA [Guidance on Verification of Death, Completion of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death and Cremation Forms](#).

The Cremation Medical Certificate (form 4) has been updated to provide for a medical practitioner completing the form on their computer or other device to embed an electronic signature. This will enable the form to be sent via another person's email account, such as a medical administrator, without the form having to be first printed and signed. Download the [Cremation Medical Certificate](#).

Guidance has also been produced by the Government on Coronavirus (COVID-19): verification of death in times of emergency. This guidance is designed to clarify existing practice for the verification of death outside of hospitals and to provide a framework for safe verification of death in this coronavirus emergency period. View the [Government guidance](#).

NHSE/I have produced guidance on excess death provisions under the Coronavirus Act. Download [Coronavirus Act – excess death provisions: information and guidance for medical practitioners](#) (pdf).

GP retention scheme

The lifting of the cap on retained GP sessions has been extended until further notice. Additionally, if you are due for your scheme annual review before the end of September 2020 you may now seek (through your HEE lead) to defer the review until a later date. If you are approaching the end of the scheme (e.g. doctors in their final three months of the scheme) then you can ask for an extension until the end of September 2020. Further COVID-19 GP retention scheme info can be accessed here: <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/covid-19/your-contract/covid-19-your-terms-and-conditions/your-terms-and-conditions-sessional-gps>

Self-referrals to the NHS Volunteer Responders Scheme

People who feel they are vulnerable at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and who would benefit from support from NHS Volunteer Responders, can now self-refer to the scheme rather than depending on their GP practices or other professionals to refer them. The number for people to call to make a self-referral is **0808 1963 646** – and you can share this with your patients.

The range of professionals who can now also refer people in for support with tasks like shopping, prescription deliveries, biological sample collections and transport to medical appointments has been expanded to include some charities, all emergency services staff, local councillors and MPs.

GP and Practice Toolkit

The BMA are regularly updating their online [COVID-19 toolkit for GPs and GP practices](#).

New updates to the toolkit include [a new section on I&R and IGPR scheme doctors returning to work](#) and contractual responsibilities of providing care during COVID-19 pandemic in the [service provision section](#).

We are regularly updating our website at <https://www.humbersidelmc.org.uk/coronavirus> with new guidance and resources. Use the search box at the top if you're struggling to find what you need.