Coronavirus - LMC Update November 25th 2020

Laptops for Primary Care due to COVID-19

The demand for laptops for primary care staff is currently significantly higher due to the pandemic. IT support provider N3i continue to manage laptop request and in addition to other projects have deployed 90 COVID specific laptops, on request, over the last couple of weeks.

There are currently some laptops in stock reserved for COVID-19 use and some more due to arrive but this process is being hampered by national supply chain issues. Local CCGs are also about to start an exercise to recall laptops which were requested for COVID but are not being used so they can be moved around to where they are needed.

The CCGs have suspended all non-P1 contractual KPIs to ensure that N3i can work in an as agile fashion as possible. If any practices are having issues the N3i management team are always happy to help – email n3i.support@nhs.net.

BMA Covid-19 Vaccination Guidance

The BMA have updated their newly published guidance about the Covid-19 Vaccination programme (CVP). New content includes:

- explaining the specific characteristics for two of the potential vaccines that are likely to be supplied in the UK and how practices can prepare for this.
- clarification that the latest information on the vaccines suggests that patients do not need to be observed following administration of the vaccine, but patients must not drive for 15 minutes after.
- a new section about how practices can utilise the resources and contractual flexibilities provided, including the use of PCN staff, extended access services and using QOF and local enhanced services income protection to enable workload prioritisation, and considering what is needed to practically deliver the vaccine and workforce issues.

COVID-19 vaccination programme (bma.org.uk)

GPC Chair Dr Richard Vautrey has also written a blog piece about the vaccine rollout: A lead role in defeating the virus (bma.org.uk)

Covid Vaccination Programme Digital Update

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership have shared the following information:

Key issues to update you on at this point:

- Neither EMIS Web or TPP SystmOne are currently accredited by the MHRA to record the administration of a Covid vaccine to a patient

- The only accredited solution for recording Covid vaccinations at this point is PharmOutcomes from Pinnacle Systems

- PharmOutcomes will transfer the vaccination data entry to a national system called NIMS (National Immunisation Management System), which will feed vaccination data back into the GP clinical system for each patient

- PharmOutcomes does not have a booking/scheduling function, and the national booking/scheduling tool is not currently suitable for individual PCN use, so for the initial phase of the Covid vaccination programme PCN's will need to use their own, local booking systems for the call, recall and booking of eligible patients. The booking process will need to be able to recall a patient for their second vaccination, ensuring that a patient receives the same vaccine at each contact

- Pinnacle will provide administration accounts for PharmOutcomes – HCV await a template from Pinnacle to share with PCN's/Practices that will need completing to identify staff within your Practices who will undertake both vaccinator and administrator roles.

- PharmOutcomes is an online, internet facing solution, so will need internet access from care home settings and for any visits to housebound patients. For vaccinations administered away from the PCN designated site, the required IT kit is a laptop with VPN connectivity into the HSCN network. In the event that local wifi connectivity is not available, ICS digital leads are looking into the costs associated with providing 3G/4G dongles to enable internet connectivity. Where these cannot be used, HCV aim to clarify whether part of the process could be safely carried out using an 'offline' laptop or paper-based system

- It is envisaged that you will need to use existing PCN/Practice laptops to facilitate access to PharmOutcomes when working away from the PCN designated site. It would be helpful to know how many staff you anticipate will be delivering vaccines in the community (care homes and patient's homes) at any one time, as this will help us identify how many 3G/4G dongles might be needed.

- ACTION: PCN's are asked to confirm how many staff per PCN at any one time are likely to be providing 'remote' vaccinations (i.e. needing roaming internet access to log into PharmOutcomes), and how many 3G/4G dongles are required for internet access (please note these dongles will be interchangeable between laptops/staff).

Please send any queries about this digital update to Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership via nlccg.primarycaredirectorate@nhs.net.