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## HOT TOPICS

### This Month's Hot Topics

Starting this month, we'll be including a short summary of the main issues the LMC is working on to support primary care in the Humber area. This month's hot topics:

#### COVID-19 Vaccination

We have been supporting PCNs with their queries about signing up for the specification and continue to have discussions with local CCGs and NHSEI. See our [COVID-19 update of 19 November](#).

#### General Practice Funding

Practices have been sent a [letter](#) with an [appendix](#) from Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership regarding the £150m Primary Care COVID Capacity Expansion Fund. In the HCV region, this funding will be allocated on the basis of weighted population, regardless of whether they sign up to the enhanced service.

#### Prioritising Workload

In response to the pandemic, the [RCGP and the BMA's GP committee has prepared joint guidance](#) to help practices across the UK to prioritise the clinical and non-clinical workload in general practice. The BMA also has useful resources including template letters regarding [pushing back on inappropriate workload](#).

## CORONAVIRUS

### Protecting Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Patients (Formerly Shielding)

The Government has updated their [guidance for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable](#) alongside the new national restrictions.

NHSEI has [written to practices](#) to inform them of the new arrangements and although shielding is not being reintroduced as before, two additional groups have been added (adults with stage 5 chronic kidney disease and adults with Down's syndrome).

Patients who are on the shielding list will receive notification directly from government about what they should do. The letter to the patients also states that a copy of the

letter is sufficient to give to an employer as evidence for Statutory Sick Pay purposes should that be required. Patients in this situation should therefore not need a fit note issuing by the practice.

Practices are also asked to review any children and young people remaining on the Shielded Patient List (SPL) and, where appropriate, remove them from the Shielded Patient List. Read more in the BMA's updated guidance [Protecting clinically extremely vulnerable patients](#)

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## Medicines Home Delivery Service

The Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service and the Dispensing Doctor Home Delivery Service have been commissioned for those identified as clinically extremely vulnerable on the shielded patient list for the national lockdown period in England, which means that all pharmacies and dispensing doctors in England will again be required to ensure patients on the Shielded Patient List receive their medicines at home. Read more in this [letter to pharmacies](#) and dispensing doctors and in the [service specifications](#).

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## Guidance for Doctors who are Isolating

With national restrictions in place, the Government is [advising](#) people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to work from home. The BMA has now published some FAQs explaining what this means for doctors in that group, or who live with someone who is. [See the guidance](#).

# TRAINING, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Resilience and Wellbeing Webinars for Practice Staff in Humber Area

Following the excellent feedback received about the Beyond Coaching Resilience and Wellbeing Webinars delivered during the first wave of the pandemic, we are repeating the series throughout December and January. These are 75-min bite size Resilience and Wellbeing Webinars facilitated by two experienced Resilience and Wellbeing Coaches. Sessions will use effective coach-approach tools to help increase resilience, reduce

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stress and anxiety and help to improve thinking. The sessions and are FREE to attend and will be repeated and run at different times of the day to facilitate maximum attendance. You are welcome to attend them all if you wish or just any that appeal to you.

Booking details to follow next week on the [events section of the LMC website](#).

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## Practice Nurse Webinar

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership - GPFV Transformation Programmes 2020/21

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 11:30 - 12:30

Online via Microsoft Teams

This is a free one hour webinar for practice nurses in the Humber, Coast and Vale area. Full details and joining link can be found on the [webinar agenda](#). To book your place email Melissa Brolls at [melissa.brolls@nhs.net](mailto:melissa.brolls@nhs.net) stating which practice you are from.

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## Practice Nurses - Managing Your World

Various Dates, February - March 2021

Online event

This is a one day session for Practice Nurses which will help you to find ways to manage the pressure of working in a busy practice. The agenda with full details can be downloaded [here](#).

The course will delivered online on the following dates:

Tuesday 9th February 2021

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Wednesday 17th March 2021

Places on the course are free of charge but are limited and will therefore be offered on a first come first served basis. Bookings can be made via email to Melissa Brolls at [melissa.brolls@nhs.net](mailto:melissa.brolls@nhs.net).

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## Hull Medical Society – Why Happiness is the Best Medicine

Wednesday 16 December 2020, 19:00 – 20:00

Online via Zoom

This talk gives some top tips on how to maintain a spring in your step in a world that's hell bent on knocking us sideways. Speaker Dr Andy Cope is a qualified teacher, best-selling author and happiness expert. In times of rising depression and an epidemic of anxiety, Andy believes there has never been a more appropriate time to raise the wellbeing agenda.

Tickets cost £2 for non-members and bookings can be made via Eventbrite: [Why happiness is the best medicine Tickets, Wed 16 Dec 2020 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

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## GP Fellowship Scheme for Newly Qualified GPs

There is national funding for a 2 Year Fellowship Scheme for all newly qualified GPs who are new to primary care and within their first 12 months of qualifying.

The Fellowship Scheme will include access to a programme of support, learning and development. This will include access to mentoring, whereby newly qualified GPs will be matched with an experienced GP who will provide mentoring and pastoral support. It is likely that there will be a mixture of one to one support from your mentor and group sessions to allow for peer support and networking.

Whilst the details of the scheme are being developed, our colleagues at YORLMC are working with HCV STP to help assess how many newly qualified GPs across HCV would be interested in taking up the fellowship scheme and therefore also accessing the mentoring element when it starts early next year. To be eligible you must:

- be within the first 12 months since qualifying and
- hold a substantive contract to deliver GMS services

If you are eligible and would be interested in joining the scheme, please email [APC@hyms.ac.uk](mailto:APC@hyms.ac.uk) by 11 December with the following information:

1. Name
  2. Email address
  3. Contact telephone number
- 

4. Name of employing GP Practice and your start date
5. Are you Full or Part Time?
6. If you are Part Time, how many hours per week do you work in General Practice and do you have a second role?
7. Do you have any ideas of how you would like your mentor to support you personally in your role?
8. Do you have any suggestions around what group sessions could include?

## PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

### Updated Directed Enhanced Service Specification for Flu Vaccine

Following the announcement and the recent publication of guidance, an [updated DES Specification for the seasonal flu and pneumococcal vaccination programme 2020/21](#) has been published to reflect practices now being able to access central flu vaccines supplies.

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### Guidance to Support Care Homes to Order Medications through Proxy Access

New [step-by-step guidance from the NHS and LGA](#) explains what a care home, GP practice and pharmacy needs to do to set-up care staff with proxy access to a resident's GP online account so they can quickly, safely and securely order resident's medications online. The guidance, linked to TPP and EMIS GP practice systems, also covers the necessary security and governance requirements.

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### No Change to CQC Fees

The CQC fees scheme will not change in 2021/22. This means that, for most providers, their fees will remain the same as in 2019/20 and 2020/21, providing their registration or size does not change. The fees for General Practice remain fully reimbursable. Since the fees scheme will remain the same in 2021/22 as in the last two years, you can find the fees scheme, guidance and calculator at [www.cqc.org.uk/fees](http://www.cqc.org.uk/fees)



## GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

### Coroners Referral Form

The Coroner's Office in the East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull is currently progressing plans to move to a new version of the case management system used. The transition is due to take place this month and the Go Live date for the new system is currently set as 24th November.

The new version of the software includes a web based version of the reporting form used when referring a death to the coroner. The new form will be accessed through the same link as the current form and so there will be no need for doctors to familiarise themselves with an alternative URL. A link to the form will also be made available on the coroner's web page.

The new form will look and feel different to the current form, although the information to be completed will not significantly change. There will be the ability to provide a lot more information on the new form, so the form will look a lot more in depth, however not all questions will be mandatory to complete. Mandatory questions will be highlighted in red.

Hospital doctors and registrars will use the same form. Questions will differ depending on the referrer's role and so one of the first new questions is to confirm your role i.e. GP or Hospital Doctor. The use of drop down lists, including one for causes of death will hopefully make the form more user friendly and easier to complete.

At the end of the form the doctor will have a clear view of the information provided and the ability to edit any section to make changes. When submitting the referral a confirmation will be displayed at the top of the screen to confirm it has been successfully submitted along with the option to print or save a copy of the form. This will replace the confirmation by email.

The Coroner's office have stated that they appreciate that now is not an ideal time to make changes, however given problems with IT servers that concern the current system they cannot delay the change any longer and hope that this change will not cause any

inconvenience at this difficult time for everyone.

The Coroners Officers are contactable on 01482 613009 for support and to discuss referrals. More guidance including screen shots of the new form can be downloaded on this [guidance note](#).

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## General Practice Workforce Initiatives

The BMA has published a guide to inform GPs and PCNs about the range of [workforce initiatives and schemes in England](#). The guide includes helpful information about what is on offer in each of the scheme and how to apply for them.

They have also published a new [guide to applying for the GP partnership scheme](#), which will help you navigate what can be a complicated application process. The scheme was launched on 1 July and supports clinicians who are interested in becoming a practice partner. You can read more in this [blog](#) by Krishna Kasaraneni, member of GPC England's Executive team and workforce lead.

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## Parental Leave Guidance

The BMA has published [A guide for GPs - maternity leave and other types of parental leave](#) which contains key information and useful links on the full range of parental leave topics. It will serve as a checklist for each stage of maternity or parental leave. You can read more in this [blog](#) by Sarah Westerbeek, sessional GPs executive committee member.

The BMA will also be hosting a webinar and workshop for more in depth guidance to explain these issues:

**Wednesday 2 December (12.30 - 2.00pm) - Webinar - 'GP Maternity and Parental leave Guide: launch and introduction to the guide'**

The session will also touch on local maternity workshops and there will be a Q&A session. [Register here](#)

**Wednesday 9 December (12.30 - 2.30pm) - Workshop - 'GP maternity'**

An in depth run through everything you need to consider before, during and after maternity leave, including advice on leave and pay entitlements, notifying your practice, appraisals, CPD and returning to work. [Register here](#)

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## The Updated GP Contract Explained

Newly updated, this article from the King's Fund explains the GP contract agreed in January 2019. It sets out the key features including new roles, recruitment and retention, service specifications, access and data, and funding. Read the article:

[The updated GP contract explained | The King's Fund.](#)

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## Resilience and Wellbeing Free Toolkit

A free resilience and wellbeing toolkit is also available to download for NHS staff for the second phase of the pandemic at the following link:

<https://we-are-beyond.com/resilience-and-wellbeing-toolkit/>. The toolkit includes advice, tools and exercises vital in improving resilience and wellbeing, and has been downloaded over 30,000 times so far!

## GENERAL NEWS

### The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Fund is the GPs' own charity and the only medical benevolent fund that solely supports general practitioners and their dependents. They support GPs and their families in times of financial need, whether through ill-health, disability, death or loss of employment.

The charity depends on donations to fund its work and has seen a large increase in enquiries this year. The LMC has made a donation to the Cameron Fund's Christmas appeal. You can find more information about the Cameron Fund, how to seek help, and how to donate at [www.cameronfund.org.uk](http://www.cameronfund.org.uk).

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### LMC Offers Freedom to Speak Up Guardian Service

Humberside LMCs now offer a Freedom to Speak up Guardian Service to anyone working in primary care in our four CCG areas who wishes to raise a concern. Any members of staff from GP practices can speak up about concerns they have which they feel are not being listened to by their own management reporting.

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All constituents within the region covered by Humberside LMCs are included in the scope of our new policy to give everyone the confidence to speak up at the earliest possible opportunity, using Humberside LMCs' Freedom to Speak up Guardians or your own organisational Freedom to Speak up Guardians.

For full details, including how to raise a concern, download our [Freedom to Speak Up policy](#).

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## **DWP Work Capability Assessments**

The Department of Work and Pensions has issued a plea for GP practices to return requests for further evidence for Capability for Work Assessments as quickly as they can. People who have made these applications are often suffering financial hardship, hence their concern. The following is the DWP statement:

"DWP are currently prioritising Work Capability Assessments for new claims to Universal Credit / Employment and Support Allowance and continuing to process all Personal Independence Payment claims. Ensuring individuals can access financial support in a timely manner is essential and we would therefore ask GPs to treat requests for further evidence as a priority."

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## **NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)**

From 1 November 2020, the NHS Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) is being extended across England to include referrals from general practices as well as from NHS 111. GPs will be able to refer patients to community pharmacies to receive a CPCS consultation for minor illness (unlike NHS 111, GPs cannot refer patients for an urgent supply of a medicine or appliance).

General practices can choose whether they want to refer patients to the CPCS and before GPs can make referrals, there must be local discussions to agree how this will work. These discussions will involve pharmacy contractors, the Primary Care Network (PCN) and the member general practices, the NHS and your Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC).

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## RCGP Campaign - General Practice is Open

The Royal College of GPs has [launched a campaign](#) to make it clear to patients that general practice is open and that general practice services are available, albeit being delivered differently than usual in many cases. The RCGP is urging patients, if sick, to continue accessing general practice - and other NHS services - care throughout the second national lockdown.

They have produced downloadable resources for GP practices across the UK to support GPs to get the message out to patients about general practice being open, and how they can expect care to be delivered. These can be shared on practice websites, social media or any other channels.

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## Early Implementation of PCNs Evaluation Study

The University of Birmingham has published a new research report: [Early evidence of the development of primary care networks in England: a qualitative rapid evaluation study](#). Their findings show that PCNs were swift in successfully establishing organisational structures, recruiting to new roles, and providing services as required by the national specification. Effective management and leadership were critical to enabling early progress of PCNs, particularly with respect to having a committed clinical director, and constructive relationships between primary care networks and clinical commissioning groups. However, in rural areas, there was some perceived lack of fit of the PCN policy with aspects of the national network service specification.

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## Support from the LMC

A quick reminder that there are many sources of support and wellbeing accessible via the LMC - view our [support page](#) for details of services including mentoring and coaching, plus a wide range of external support services.

If you wish to stop receiving newsletters from the LMC please send an email to [humbertside.lmcgroup@nhs.net](mailto:humbertside.lmcgroup@nhs.net) with 'Unsubscribe from newsletters' in the subject line. You can read our privacy policies at <https://www.humbertsidelmc.org.uk/privacy>.







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