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## HOT TOPICS

### This Month's Hot Topics

This is where we provide 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 Programme

We are continuing to support practices with their queries on implementing the programme. New guidance and resources concerning the programme are emerging daily - visit our [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme page](#) which is being updated regularly with the latest information and links.

#### Integrated Care Systems Consultation

[See the item below on the consultation](#) which asks for views on very significant changes to how the NHS is organised. The deadline to respond is Friday 8 January 2021.

#### Wellbeing

We really appreciate the hard work of everyone in primary care at such a challenging time. We're thrilled with the feedback from practices about [the wellbeing packs](#) which were sent out recently. We're continuing to extend [our support offer to practices](#) and in December and January we are hosting [a series of free short First Aid Webinars](#) which have been positively received - do take a look and book any that appeal to you.

#### LMC Support Available Over Christmas



We'd like to wish everyone a happy Christmas, and we hope you manage to enjoy some downtime over Christmas and the New Year. The LMC will be operating a reduced service throughout the Christmas and New Year period to respond to urgent queries. We recognise that Covid vaccinations and some primary care services will be running

during this time, and constituents may need our help. We are therefore arranging for staffing cover each day from 25 December to 3 January (inclusive) to respond to requests from practices for advice. If you need our help during this time please [contact us](#) in the usual ways. Our normal level of service will resume on Monday 4 January.

## CORONAVIRUS

### Updates and Resources

Visit our [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme page](#) for links and information on the programme. Our [Coronavirus page](#) still has lots of guidance, information and resources you may find useful.

### PPE Portal Increase in Order Limits

The DHSC Portal will be operational over Christmas, but its delivery partners (Royal Mail and their Pallet Carrier) will not be delivering on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Orders made during this time should still be delivered within five days. To allow for potential disruptions or increased need, DHSC has increased order limits by 25% for all providers until at least **Monday 4 January**. The customer service team is available from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week on **0800 876 6802** for questions about the PPE portal. Updated guidance, including order limits for types and sizes of provider, is available [here](#).

## TRAINING, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### First Aid Webinars

Please visit [Humberside LMC: LMC Events and Training](#) for dates, details and booking of these free, 75 minute sessions to support your and your team's wellbeing using a coach approach. The sessions are delivered by We Are Beyond (previously Beyond Coaching) and are running until the end of January.

Feedback so far includes:

- "Very interactive session. I will access the resources provided to expand on the subject."

- “I am glad the session involved our active participation, feel like I have things to practically try myself to help.”
- “Thank you. Good session. Excellent discussion about different models”.

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## Our Primary Care Support Offer January 2020

The LMC now offers a range of support to people working in general practice throughout the Humber region, including training, mentoring, coaching, and signposting. [Download this short guide to our support offer](#) for an overview of all the services, who can access them, and how to benefit from them.

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## Mental Health and Learning Disability Clinical Assemblies

Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership are hosting two Mental Health and Learning Disability Clinical Assemblies in the early part of 2021.

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, 12 noon – 1pm via MS Teams

The first assembly will focus on the important work that needs to take place to improve the physical health of people with severe mental illness. Dr Dan Burningham who is a General Practitioner and Mental Health Programme Director with NHS City & Hackney CCG will be talking about their innovative work that has resulted in them achieving very high rates of concordance with the 6 physical health checks for people with SMI. The NHS City & Hackney CCG were HSJ winners last year because of this work.

Dan has agreed to come and speak about this work and the improvements they are making to the physical health of people with SMI in their area. He is a very engaging speaker and this talk is highly recommended for anyone involved or interested in this work.

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 12 noon – 1.30pm via MS Teams

The second Clinical Assembly will again be focussing on mental health at a primary care level. The speakers are:

- Dr Dan Roper, Chair of Hull CCG
  - Geoff Day, Head of Primary Care (North Yorkshire & Humber) NHS England and NHS Improvement and Director of Primary Care (NHS North Lincolnshire CCG)
  - Anna Morgan, Business Manager at NAViGO, who will be talking about mental health initiatives at a PCN level in North East Lincolnshire
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To receive the meeting invitations with the links to join, please email [hnf-tr.hcvmhpmo@nhs.net](mailto:hnf-tr.hcvmhpmo@nhs.net)

## PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

### Flu Vaccinations 2020/21 - 50-64 Year Old Cohort

Following the announcement last month about the extension of the flu vaccination programme to 50 to 64 year olds, please find below clarification of stock which can be used for different cohorts, and the claiming mechanism for these.

- The 50-64 year old cohort are eligible for the flu vaccination from 1 December. Practices should continue to ensure all previous eligible cohorts continue to be offered and are encouraged to take up the flu vaccination.
- Practices should use the vaccine stock they already have in their fridges to vaccinate all eligible cohorts (including 50-64 year olds).
- If further stock is required, practices can access additional stock using the guidance on the DHSC website:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/937227/DHSC-guidance-for-general-practice-in-England-on-accessing-DHSC-centrally-supplied-flu-vaccines.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/937227/DHSC-guidance-for-general-practice-in-England-on-accessing-DHSC-centrally-supplied-flu-vaccines.pdf)  
This guidance has been updated to include the 50-64 year old cohort, and an additional vaccine – Flublok®.
- Practices are able to order Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (aTIV) for those over 65 years old and Flublok® for those under 65 years old.
- Flublok® does not have a marketing authorisation in the UK, but was given authorisation for temporary supply in the UK by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency – Practitioners should note that information on the use/licensing of this vaccine must be discussed with the patient as part of the consent process
- The PGD to support the use of this vaccine was issued to practice managers on 25<sup>th</sup> November, also available on the YH PGD webpage - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/north-east-yorkshire/our-work/information-for-professionals/pgds/> - there are specific requirements relating to this vaccine, in relation to the consent process and all practitioners should ensure they are familiar with these requirements.

- For other inactivated vaccines, the authorisation issued previously extending the use of the Inactivated Flu Vaccine PGD for children declining LAIV due to porcine has been updated to include the 50-64-year-old cohort
- Note that Flublok<sup>®</sup> does not come with needles and so GPs may need to order needles to support their use of the vaccine
- The inactivated influenza vaccine guidance for healthcare practitioners has been updated to include information relating to Flublok<sup>®</sup>, including administration by HCA's /HCSWs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inactivated-influenza-vaccine-information-for-healthcare-practitioners>

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## EU Exit – Medicines Supply Continuity

Dr Keith Ridge, the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England, has published a letter giving guidance on actions to help ensure medicines continue to be available and that any supply disruptions are mitigated after the UK leaves the EU Single Market and Customs Union on 31 December 2020. DHSC guidance is that it is not necessary for local providers, whether in hospitals or primary care, to stockpile medicines or for clinicians to write longer prescriptions for patients. [Download the letter.](#)

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## Investment and Impact Fund 2020/21 – Reminder to Sign Up to PCN CQRS Service

The Investment and Impact Fund represents a significant source of income for PCNs and to calculate this, NHSE/I measures PCN performance against indicators defined in the [2020/21 Network Contract DES](#), by using data extracted from practice systems via the [Calculating Quality Reporting Service](#).

In order for practices to record their performance against these indicators, commissioners must have offered them the PCN service on CQRS. If they do not, PCNs containing these practices risk not receiving IIF funding this year, *so if your practice is not signed up to this service, please contact your CCG as soon as possible to ensure that it is offered.*

More information can be found on [NHS Digital's website](#) and for any questions about the service, please contact [england.gpcontracts@nhs.net](mailto:england.gpcontracts@nhs.net).



## GUIDANCE & RESOURCES

### GP Trainees Mileage Payment

NHS Employers and the BMA have published [joint guidance for the reimbursement of home to principle place of work mileage for trainees in a GP practice](#). The guidance will provide the necessary information for employing organisations on operationalising the current provisions in the absence of an updated version of the terms and conditions. This is applicable to both back dated and future claims.

## CONSULTATIONS

### Integrated Care Systems Consultation

NHSE/I has published a consultation inviting comments on the next steps for ICSs (Integrated Care Systems). The consultation raises some fundamental issues about how the NHS will be structured and work in the future and invites a discussion about how ICSs could be embedded in legislation or guidance. It signals an intent to make significant changes to CCGs and move the focus from competition to provider collaboration. The BMA will be carefully considering all of this and its implications.

Details of the proposals are contained within the document - [Integrating care - Next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England](#), with additional background [here](#).

You can provide feedback and comments to the consultation as follows:

- Directly as a practice and/or as an individual via the consultation survey page - [Your views: building a strong, integrated care system across England - NHS England - Citizen Space](#)
- If you would like to submit any comments/feedback to the LMC please email [humberSide.lmcgroup@nhs.net](mailto:humberSide.lmcgroup@nhs.net) and we will capture your thoughts into our response and during the course of local discussions

You may also wish to discuss the proposals and consultation with your PCN Clinical Director or COM representative to inform ongoing local discussions. Please note that the deadline for providing comments and views is Friday 8 January 2021 at midnight.

## GENERAL NEWS

### LMC Workflow Prioritisation

We have adopted a new internal prioritisation system to deal with our workload. This is in response to a considerable increase in our workload in the past 12 months, in which the Secretariat has processed over 19,500 emails and chaired or represented constituents at over 550 meetings. This represents an increase of around 11% on workload in the preceding period.

Our new system for prioritisation of workload should allow the Secretariat to effectively deploy our resources where they will make the biggest difference, to the greatest number of constituents. Incoming contacts and request for support or advice will be all be acknowledged. If we consider an enquiry to be urgent or if the issue potentially impacts many constituents, we will endeavour to respond within 5 working days. For individual or non-urgent enquiries, our normal response will take longer. If you are concerned that your email may not be allocated the appropriate level of priority, please feel free to [contact us](#) with further information.

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### The Cameron Fund Newsletter

The Cameron Fund has published its autumn/winter newsletter which can be downloaded [here](#). 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.

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### Accessing Your GP Animation – Public Messaging

To support general practice, NHSE/I have created [an animation to help explain to the public how they can continue to access GP services](#), including how to get in contact, the different ways care may be delivered, and how face-to-face appointments have changed. Please share the video on your websites and social media as appropriate to ensure patients receive the care they need as safely as possible. The Royal College of General Practitioners has published helpful new guidance to support clinicians when choosing between online, video, telephone and face-to-face consultations with patients



during the pandemic: [Remote versus face to face consultations - which to use and when?](#).

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## 2019/20 Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Scheme

NHS England and introduced the annual allowance repayment scheme last year, which guarantees that any annual allowance tax charge in 2019/20 for eligible clinicians will be compensated for at the time of retirement.

If an eligible clinician who is a member of the NHS England and Wales pension scheme incurs an annual allowance tax charge, they must elect to pay this via scheme pays. The formal scheme pays deadline is 31 July 2021, however, members are encouraged to complete the forms as soon as possible, preferably by 31 December 2020 (to minimise any interest applicable).

As the deadline is fast approaching, and to help members, the BMA has produced a [template letter](#), to be submitted alongside the [scheme pays election form](#). You will then need to complete the [2019/20 Annual Allowance Charge Compensation Policy Form](#). Find more information on how to apply, as well as resources for employers, FAQs and infographics, on the [NHSE/I website](#).

Read more in this [update from the BMA's Pensions Committee](#) and the [guidance on annual allowance repayment scheme on the BMA website](#).

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## Wellbeing Gift Packs



We hope you have received your wellbeing gift box, sent to all practices recently to

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thank everyone working in primary care for the amazing work they do and to raise awareness of the importance of looking after wellbeing. If you haven't received a pack, please contact us to let us know. We have been overwhelmed with your thanks and feedback about the boxes. We're really pleased these have been well received and hope that as many of you as possible will benefit from the help and resources signposted in the packs.

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## Publication of the Gender Pay Gap Review in Medicine

The Gender Pay Gap in Medicine Review has been published and can be found here: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/944246/Gender\\_pay\\_gap\\_in\\_medicine\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/944246/Gender_pay_gap_in_medicine_review.pdf).

It is the largest review of gender pay gap in the public sector and involved interviews, online surveys and the examination of doctors' pay via ESR (electronic staff records) and HMRC returns. It was commissioned by Jeremy Hunt, the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in 2016 following the junior doctors' contract dispute. A steering group oversaw the review, chaired by Prof Jane Dacre, with representation from the BMA as a key stakeholder. Four years on, this is the output; the government has now also committed to the formation of an [Implementation Panel](#) moving forwards. Recommendations include:

- extending enhanced shared parental leave to all doctors in England;
- more NHS nurseries offering out-of-hours cover for shift work;
- ensuring that taking a career breaks is not detrimental to career progression;
- challenging barriers that deter women from entering certain medical specialities e.g. surgery;
- addressing barriers that are deterring women from reaching the highest positions, for example ensuring flexibility in GP partnership;
- equality in pay: transparency around pay and additional payments, so that women working less than full-time are not penalised in their pocket;

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