



## Friday Fast Five – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### 1. Coronavirus (Covid-19)

GPC is in regular and frequent discussion with NHS England about coronavirus to ensure the concerns raised by GPs and LMCs are being addressed. In an update today we have been told

- As the case definition has changed, and patients will be directed to self-isolate without medical advice, no patients should present in general practice. However, we know that will not be the reality. GPC has therefore told NHS England they must urgently provide appropriate PPE for frontline staff who might be exposed, not just the PPE that has currently been provided.
- Since the announcement in the budget for additional funding for COVID-19, GPC has made clear to NHS England that it is essential to provide additional funding to support practices.
- GPC is discussing with NHS England a large number of items and issues which need to be rapidly addressed, including what should stop or change and what can be done for locums, retired doctors who might return to work and other.
- They have also asked that Health Care Professionals who develop symptoms will be offered testing to avoid needless self-isolation so as to not destabilise the system. NHSE is liaising with other parts of the system to see if this is something that can be delivered.
- A specific question about the Data Security and Protection (DSP) toolkit was raised with GPC and the response was that GPC (and LMCs) would support practices who feel that attending to the DSP toolkit at this time may be detrimental to their duty of care to prioritise urgent clinical work.

#### Subject Access Requests

- The ICO has to some extent relaxed GDPR rules during this period. [Click here](#) to view info.
- Regarding SARs, ICO says “We can’t extend statutory timescales, but we will tell people through our own communications channels that they may experience understandable delays when making information rights requests during the pandemic.”
- We would remind practices that although you have to respond within 30 days, this response can be to say that you will need more time (up to two months) to meet the request.

#### Changes in how you deliver GMS services

- We are aware that some practices are making radical changes to how they deliver GMS services to reduce the number of patients coming in to the practice, such as introducing systems of total telephone triage, in order to protect staff and patients and to be able to maintain delivery of general practice. If you make such changes, please keep your CCG informed.

### 2. Special Conference of LMCs

Beds & Herts LMCs decided not to attend the Special Conference of LMCs on March 11<sup>th</sup> because of the risk of coronavirus. You may be aware that the final motion of the day proposed that the profession should reject the PCN DES, and this was carried (83 votes to 53). We are awaiting clarification of what that means, but it – along with the many other motions debated and voted on during the day – gave a strong message to GPC that many GPs remain unhappy with the PCN DES and the direction in which this is taking general practice.

The Beds & Herts representatives that were due to attend the conference used this time instead to meet (virtually) to discuss the PCN DES in detail now that we have had longer to consider the implications and impact it will have on practices over the next few years. We have been asked by several practices and PCNs for “the LMC view” on the DES, and a steer on whether or not practices should sign up for 2020/21. While we have a number of reservations and concerns about the DES, we don’t feel we can tell practices one way or the other whether they should sign up or not because so much depends on a practice’s individual circumstances, how well they work with the other practices in their PCN, and the health economy in which they are working. To help practices make their decision, we are working on a list of long- and short-term pros and cons of signing up that will be available soon.

### 3. Practice registration – PCSE Online

Please be reminded that practices are required to register a nominated administrator to be able to action performers’ list requests that require practice validation. While practices will already have administrators registered with PCSE Online for purposes such as supplies and medical records, additional registration is required for the performers’ list role. PCSE have sent letters with registration codes and details via recorded delivery to all CQC registered practice

managers. Practices that have not yet registered are encouraged to check with the relevant practice manager to obtain the details and if needed can request a new registration letter by [contacting PCSE](#).

#### **4. NHSmail for GP Locums in England**

After much hard work, in collaboration with NHSEI, NHSD and the GMC, NHSmail for GP locums went live on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. This is a really important step in the recognition of the value and importance of locum GPs within primary care. This will allow locum GPs to access local, regional and national information. As an example of the importance of this, up until now many locum GPs have had no access to information on COVID-19 updates as they do not have NHSmail. The link for GP Locums to sign up to NHSmail is [here](#), please share it widely.

#### **5. Beds & Herts LMC Roadshows**

These Roadshows are aimed at GPs and Practice Managers to hear national and local updates on the implications for general practice of the Contract agreement for 2020/2021 including the PCN DES.

**Dates & Locations:**

- Tuesday 31st March 2020: Three Lakes, Westmill Farm, Ware, Herts SG12 0ES
- Thursday 2nd April 2020: King's House Conference Centre, 245 Ampthill Road, Bedford, Beds MK42 9AZ
- Tuesday 21st April 2020: Tilsworth Golf & Conference Centre, Dunstable Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 9PU
- Wednesday 29th April 2020: Shendish Manor Hotel & Golf, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 0AA

**Timings:** All Roadshows will be from 7.15 - 9.30pm (with light refreshments from 6.45pm)

**How to book:** [Booking Form](#)

*\*Disclaimer\* These may be subject to cancellation dependant on progression of COVID-19 outbreak*

**For up to date news, information and events, please visit our website [www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk](http://www.bedshertslmcs.org.uk)**