



## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Weekly Update for Practices: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### 1) **PCN DES**

We circulated the Beds & Herts LMC statement about the PCN DES to all practices on Monday. Read it [here](#) and do contact the LMC Office if you have any queries or would like to discuss it.

### 2) **BMA COVID-19 GP and practice toolkit**

Updates to the BMA toolkit this week include a new section on [I&R and IGPR scheme doctors returning to work](#) and contractual responsibilities of providing care during COVID-19 pandemic.

### 3) **Contractual responsibilities of providing care during COVID-19 pandemic**

As referred to above, the GPC has received several queries about the contractual responsibilities of providing care for patients with COVID-19. The GPC has as a result taken legal advice on this and has produced [guidance](#) which is available in its [GP and practice toolkit](#).

The guidance says that the care of patients within the community with, or suspected of having, COVID-19 is part of the provision of essential primary medical services and a requirement of the GMS contract. Practices not doing this, or if they have inadvertently taken steps whereby they have stopped providing care for these patients, including not seeing patients face to face in their practice (or another premises such as a hub if they have a contractual arrangement for this) or at home when it is clinically necessary to do so, would be breaching their contract.

### 4) **Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a notifiable disease**

As [COVID-19 remain on the list of notifiable diseases](#), practices are reminded that all registered medical practitioners, including GPs, have a statutory duty to notify any clinically suspected cases of COVID-19. They should not wait for laboratory confirmation to notify the cases.

### 5) **Shotgun and Firearms Licences**

A new process for shotgun and firearms licensing was introduced from the 1<sup>st</sup> February, and over the last few months Beds & Herts LMC and Cambridgeshire LMC have been working with the local police to agree a new, standardised medical process which both satisfies the police's requirements for public safety and minimises workload and medico-legal risk for GPs. The new process requires the applicant to send a letter and the proforma to the GP for completion and this makes it clear that the GP is being asked for information about the applicants medical history and not for an opinion. GPs can charge the applicant for completing the form. The letter and proforma also includes guidance for the GP. The letter, proforma and guidance is available here: [firearms licence medical proforma](#)

We have been informed by the police that they are not currently processing grant applications for new firearms licences as these require a home visit to the applicant. All forces have suspended this function indefinitely and this will only change when lockdown instructions change. Although the police have asked the public not to bother submitting applications as they will not be dealt with, some people may nevertheless approach their GP for requests for new applications. Licence renewals are still being processed and the

police have been instructed to carry on business as usual with these. Renewals will not be issued without a completed medical proforma, but the police can issue an 8 week extension if the GP is not currently in a position to complete these.

6) **Death Verification**

The Department of Health and Social Care has published guidance on death verification during this period of emergency which includes a process for remote verification. [Click here to view](#).

7) **Childhood Immunisations**

Thank you for your updates on how the childhood immunisation service is going. Following issues raised with the office after our last update, please note the following:

Parents are always given a leaflet with information about what to expect after their child's immunisation and also given a number to call if they have any queries.

Practices are still required to carry out the 6-8 week baby check. Although 8 week immunisations are being given by the central service, on some occasions a practice may consider it more appropriate to give the 8 week immunisation at the same time as they do the baby check. If you do this, please make sure the CHIS team are informed as soon as possible (the same day or day after) so they can update their records to avoid calling the child again unnecessarily. If you are on SystemOne, updating your system promptly will mean CHIS will receive this information, but if you are on EMIS or Vision please contact the CHIS team directly.

8) **BLMK free COVID-19 Webinar: Secondary Care, Wednesday 13th May, 4.30-5.30pm**

If you work in Primary Care in Bedfordshire and Luton, BLMK Training Hub will be hosting the first of two COVID-19 learning webinars. The aim of the first webinar is to provide an overview of the **current situation in Secondary Care** and an opportunity to ask questions about the COVID-19 response. Guest speakers from Public Health and Secondary Care will offer their insights on the following:

- 1) The current COVID activity in Bedfordshire Care Alliance/MK.
- 2) The eligibility criteria for interventions in hospitalised patients.
- 3) Overview working knowledge of the Recovery Trial and eligibility criteria
- 4) Current knowledge on recovery and outcomes for hospitalised COVID positive patients.

More information and how to register: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DR8NTE/>.

9) **RCGP COVID-19 Webinars**

(Free for RCGP Members – select the links for more information and terms of registration)

1. [COVID-19 Pandemic baby boom, reducing the birth-rate spike](#) 12<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30-7.30pm
2. [My First Death | Q&A Panel for Practitioners](#), 12<sup>th</sup> May, 7.00 - 8.00pm
3. [Dying Matters during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7.00 - 8.00pm
4. [Management of tonsillitis and community acquired pneumonia in COVID-19](#), 19<sup>th</sup> May 6.30 - 7.30pm
5. [Women's Health Managing common gynecological issues during COVID-19](#), 26<sup>th</sup> May, 6.30 - 7.30pm

## 9) BHLMC webinars and online training: **Expression of Interest required**

We are potentially looking at offering the following webinars from late June/July. If you would be interested in any of these, please let us know.

### a) Pensions & Finance Webinar for GPs (approx 2 hours):

- 1995/2008/2015 Schemes and peripheral benefits
- Annual Allowance / Tapered Annual Allowance – impact of the recent changes, options available, deadlines for Scheme Pays
- Lifetime Allowance – implications of exceeding, protection, options available
- 24 Hour Retirement – the requirements outlining the recent suspension of 16 hour limits, why, when and how
- The impact of reduced income for some, the mortgage payment holiday and the deferral of income tax.
- What protection is provided by the NHSPA and what should be considered along with wills and powers of attorney.

Evening webinar, dates tbc. Small fee will be charged.

### b) Online training for non-clinical staff (approx 3 hours each):

1. Introduction to Medical Terminology
2. QOF Training
3. Summarising Medical Notes

As some of the content will need to be condensed, pre-course learning material will be sent in advance. Numbers are restricted so that the trainer can support the whole group. A good internet connection, microphone and video will be required. The charge would be approximately £65 per person. Finer details to be confirmed.

**If you or anyone in your practice is interested or require more information, please contact [events@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:events@bhlmc.co.uk).**

If you have missed any of our regular bulletins for practices, please visit the [Weekly Updates](#) section of our website.

If you are a Locum and would like to receive mailings and updates from Beds & Herts LMC Ltd please click here to complete the [online form](#) with your details and we can add you to our database.

Wellbeing for GPs: [Visit our webpage](#).

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