



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 29th May 2020

1) Requests for letters about returning to work or school

We are aware that practices are being approached by patients with requests for letters to support them in discussions with their employers about returning to work or regarding their children returning to school. We have produced guidance to help practices with these requests, including template letters [here](#).

2) QOF for 2020/21

We have had some queries about what is happening with QOF for 2020/21. In the Preparedness [Letter of 19th March](#), NHSE said the following:

QOF for 2019/20: "QOF activity for 2019/20 is largely complete and QOF calculations will be made as usual. However, given the priority that may need to be given to COVID-19 work, we will undertake a piece of analysis to confirm the impact and will make a one-off adjustment for practices who earned less in 2019/20 than 2018/19 as a result of COVID-19 activities." *[We understand that adjustment payments should be made in June]*
QOF for 2020/21: "We will protect QOF income as necessary to respond to COVID-19."

The BMA website currently says: "NHS England has committed that QOF income for practices for 2020/21 will be protected and information will be provided as soon as possible." We have not seen any further details of what that means in reality. Our understanding is that QOF payments for 20/21 will be maintained at previous levels, and that if QOF does resume mid-year then it will be a partial QOF to allow things to get back into proper alignment. But these things are still to be negotiated between the government and the GPC. The assurances we have had on the basis of the above is that QOF payments are secured for whatever length of time QOF is suspended and, when QOF does resume, if it is mid-year, it will not be in such a way as to load a year's worth of work into a few months. We have not heard whether there are discussions going on about changing QOF targets to take into account different ways of working, or what is expected with regards to the QI indicators.

3) Remote consultations for learning disability health checks

Providing support to people with learning disabilities is an important part of general practice activity, which includes offering the opportunity for an annual health check. [NHSEI](#) have confirmed that, with regards to health checks for people with a learning disability, where this cannot be delivered safely face to face or where the patient has other medical conditions which require them to shield or socially isolate, the review could be conducted remotely. Decisions about the best way to conduct a health check should be made on an individual basis, taking in to account the challenges some patients might have with this.

4) BMA survey of the profession

You may be aware that the BMA has been carrying out regular “tracker surveys” of doctors and some of you may have participated. BMA has now published the results of the [latest, and fourth, tracker survey](#), which show that the majority of doctors have no confidence in being able to manage patient demand in the coming weeks and that caring for those with COVID-19 has severely impacted the treatment and care available for other patients. Last month the Government insisted that before lockdown was eased, the NHS must be able to cope. These results clearly show that doctors on the frontline feel this is not the case. The lowest level of confidence is for managing demand in the community, in particular for care homes, with 69% saying they are not very or not at all confident of being able to do this. In terms of patients being able to have tests, scans and other diagnostic type treatment, around 60% of doctors said they had little or no confidence that demand could be properly managed.

5) New coronavirus life assurance scheme

On 27 April a new life assurance scheme was introduced covering health and social care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Details of the scheme have now been published by NHS Business Service Authority - scheme rules including guidance for claimants and employers can be found [here](#). This payment is in addition to Death in Service (DiS) benefits linked to the pension schemes. The GPC is aware of outstanding issues around DiS benefits, particularly for locum GPs, and continues to lobby on those.

6) The Cameron Fund

The Cameron Fund is the GPs’ own charity and is the only medical benevolent fund that solely supports general practitioners and their dependents, who find themselves in financial crisis, particularly during this extremely difficult time.

Whether you are a ST1, ST2 or GP Registrar on a recognised GP Training Scheme; work as a salaried or locum GP; are a GP Partner or are now retired - if you are experiencing hardship due to a reduced income and are struggling with debts, please contact them.

For further information, or to apply for assistance, please email the Cameron Fund on: info@cameronfund.org.uk

Their newsletter is available [here](#).

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

We are potentially looking at offering the following webinars over the coming months. These would be approx. 1.5 to 2hour sessions. If you would be interested in any of these, please complete the [online enquiry form](#) or email events@bhlmc.co.uk.

- i) Pensions Webinar for GPs
- ii) Introduction to Medical Terminology
- iii) QOF Training
- iv) Summarising Medical Notes
- v) Effective Chaperoning
- vi) Phlebotomy Update
- vii) Adult Imms

- viii) Childhood Imms
- ix) Ear Irrigation Update
- x) Pill Check and Contraception Update
- xi) *New* HRT and the Menopause.

*We do not receive any funding for these courses so a fee will be charged to cover costs.

8) RCGP Free online webinars

(view links for more information and registration terms and conditions)

- [\(Midland Faculty\) GP Returner Support Forum: 'From little acorns grow'](#), 3rd June, 1.00 – 2.30pm
- [Supporting GP trainees – Managing uncertainty](#), 3rd June, 2.30 – 3.30pm

9) Practice Manager's Huddle, Wednesday 17 June, 15:30 via Zoom

Led by Tracy Dell (Plane Trees Group Practice) and James Davies (Amicus Healthcare).
To reserve a place, please follow [this link](#).

10) Education Webinars in H&WE:

H&WE Training Hub are hosting two free BringBaby webinars:

a) GP Update: 24th June 2020, 10.00am – 1.30pm

Relaxed education event, open to all GPs with or without babies. Ideal for GPs on maternity leave, career break, induction & refresher scheme or new to area. [For more info and how to book click here](#).

b) Practice Nurse, ANPs and AHP Update: 3rd July 2020, 10.00am – 1.00pm

Relaxed education event, includes certified Basic Life Support. Ideal for those currently on parental leave, career break or recently returned to work. [For more info and how to book click here](#).

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](#).

Contact Us:

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