



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 5th June 2020

1) Test and Trace

The DHSC announced its [NHS Test and Trace](#) local outbreak control plans for England designed to help control the COVID-19 virus. Concerns had been raised about the potential impact of this on general practice staff if they have to isolate after contact with someone who tests positive. GPC raised this with NHSE, who have now said that if someone who works in, or has recently visited, a health or social care setting such as a practice tests positive for coronavirus, their case will be escalated to local public health experts, who will liaise with the relevant setting to agree on the most appropriate action. If they were wearing PPE at the time of the contact, this will not count as a contact.

2) CQC Emergency Support Framework (ESF)

Although CQC has suspended inspections during the pandemic, they have recently announced that they will be starting a new process with all providers called the Emergency Support Framework (ESF). This process has just started with general practices. Practices will be contacted by CQC to arrange a telephone conversation to ask several questions relating to the practice's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which you can [read via this link](#). CQC stresses that these calls are intended to be supportive and will not be rated or included in the practices information on the CQC website. CQC says that the purpose is to identify where the CQC can offer support or guidance to practices. The LMC raised several concerns about this process with the CQC Regional Manager as we cannot see what purpose or benefit, they will have. Practices can find out more by joining [a webinar on 9th June 1.00-2.00](#).

3) Registering babies

A number of babies born since the pandemic started have not yet been registered with a practice. The Child Health Information System (CHIS) will be contacting practices with a list of unregistered babies of mothers registered at your practice to ask you to register them. The LMC supports this approach in order to make sure these babies are registered. The NHS England guidance on patient registration makes it clear that patients must still be registered in the absence of documentation, such as a birth certificate.

4) Partnership Agreements

Once again, we wish to remind all practices of the importance of having a partnership agreement and making sure it is kept up to date. Without a partnership agreement, your GMS contract is at risk as any of the partners could choose to dissolve the partnership, resulting in a contract termination, and having an out of date partnership agreement can cause problems when partners wish to leave or where disputes or disagreements arise. We would strongly urge you to take action if you don't have an agreement or it is out of date. However well you may all get on at the moment, the consequences of not having a written, up to date agreement can be serious, unpleasant and expensive.

5) Ambulance Service

Last year the LMC was asked to give evidence at a series of local scrutiny committees on the historic problems of delays in GP initiated ambulance requests. This week we spoke to EEA Ambulance services to discuss the progress they have made in addressing the issue. At the end of last year both local and national processes and algorithms for call handling were updated to simplify the pathway for calls initiated by health care professionals (HCPs) and therefore avoid unnecessary delays. The national [booking checklist for HCPs](#) lists all of the questions the call handler will ask when receiving a call from a GP practice via the healthcare professional number. They have also provided a [quick guide to using the HCP number](#). You may want to be aware of these questions so you can make sure whoever calls for the ambulance can answer them.

We will continue to monitor the situation and are likely to be asked to present at future scrutiny committees on the impact of these changes. Clearly the impact of Covid means that fewer patients have been seen in practice, and therefore the number of HCP initiated calls has decreased dramatically. However, as patients start to return to practices, we would encourage practices to notify the LMC if you experience unacceptable delays, so we can provide evidence to the ambulance trust.

6) BHLMC Annual Report

[View here](#) The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire LMC Ltd Annual Report 2019/20.

7) RCGP FREE online webinars

(please select links below for more information and terms of registration)

- [The CQC Emergency Support Framework: Practical preparation and support for general practices](#), 9th June, 1.00 – 2.00pm
- [COVID-19: Greener Practice for a healthy recovery](#), 12th June, 1.00 – 2.00pm
- [Thinking about Testing](#), 18th June, 7.00 – 8.00pm
- ["The NHS - Then and Now"](#), 23rd June, 7.30 – 9.00pm

8) BLMK Education Webinars

- **BLMK BringBaby for Nurses and HCAs includes certified BLS**
Aimed at those currently off work, recently in post or recently back to work.
Thursday 11th June, 10 – 1.30pm. More information at www.bringbaby.co.uk
- **BLMK 'Attracting and Growing Talent' Webinar**
Thursday 25th June, 12.30-3pm. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/attracting-and-growing-talent-tickets-107680198372>

9) H&WE Education Webinars

- **Bringbaby 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.](#)
- **Bringbaby 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.](#)

10) LMC Pensions Update Webinar

Date: Thursday 2nd July

Time: 18:30 - 19:30

Charge: £10

Format: Webinar covering the following:

- 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 16hour limits, why, when and how
- The impact of reduced income for some, the mortgage payment holiday and the deferral of income tax.

[Register here](#)

Please note:

Places are limited. Registering does not guarantee your place.

11) LMC webinars and online training:

Please complete the [online enquiry form](#) if there is any training you are interested in.

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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