



Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 17th July 2020

1) Face Covering Exemption

We are aware that practices are being approached by patients with requests for letters exempting them from wearing a face covering. GPs are **not** in a position to provide individual risk assessments or letters for patients who feel that they should be exempt from wearing a face covering, and have no obligation to do so.

The government guidance on [exemptions for public transport](#) and [exemptions in other circumstances where they are mandated](#) suggests there is no requirement for people to provide evidence for exemption. Therefore, it is sufficient for an individual to self-declare this. Patients can download face covering exemption cards from a number of sources. Some examples are given below.

- [Transport for London](#)
- [Arriva](#)
- [Hertfordshire County Council](#)

2) Second phase of General Practice response to COVID-19

Earlier this week we circulated the [GPC's summary](#) of the [NHSE letter about the next phase and practice income](#) which included a bit more information about QOF than is actually given in the NHSE letter. We recommend you read the NHSE letter in full, if you have not already done so as well as the GPC's summary. Some additional points to highlight are:

- QOF restarted from 1st July but with several aspects refocused, simplified or revised. We are awaiting further details which are still being finalised between NHSE and GPC.
- Practices are told to "gear up for a major expansion of the winter flu programme". We were informed at the regional flu planning meeting this week that the cohorts will be significantly increased and details will be released within the next two weeks. Details will include how additional stocks of vaccine will be made available, and how a central call and recall system will work. Locally CCGs are planning how to support practices in delivering flu vaccination.
- The Impact and Investment Fund (IIF) will commence from October. The first six months of funding were recycled as a PCN Support Payment of 27p per patient "without conditions attached", i.e. there are no requirements to report on how this money was used. From October, the remaining IIF money will be used to reward PCNs for performance in relation to the indicators set out in the GP contract deal for 20/21 – details are still being discussed.

3) Safeguarding

Remote intimate assessments

NHS England has produced a set of [principles for intimate clinical assessments undertaken remotely](#) to give guidance on how to safely manage the receipt, storage and use of intimate images taken by patients for clinical purposes. We advise clinicians to familiarise themselves with this guidance in order to be able to provide care in a way that is in the best interests of

patients, whilst protecting both clinicians and patients from the risk associated with remote intimate assessments.

Safeguarding concerns and remote assessments

We have heard of a couple of cases where pre-mobile babies presenting with bruises to their GP practice were not seen face-to-face during COVID lockdown. We have been told that in one such case the child was subsequently hospitalised. The advice from safeguarding GPs – which the LMC supports – is that where pre-mobile babies present with bruises, GPs should make the necessary arrangements to see the baby face-to-face.

4) RCGP FREE Webinars

(Please select links below for more information, terms of registration and how to book)

- [Essentials Webinar Series | Preventing premature mortality in patients with a learning disability](#), 21st July
- [Essentials Webinar Series | Remote management of common neurological presentations in primary care](#), 22nd July
- [COVID-19: Welcome back Late Career and GP Returners!](#) 22nd July
- [Essentials Webinar Series | Addressing the complex problems that patients with a learning disability experience](#), 28th July
- [Connecting together: The value of relationships & groups for team wellbeing](#), 29th July
- [Essentials Webinar Series | Lockdown and alcohol: the role of primary care](#), 29th July
- [Essentials Webinar Series | Menopause management: The how-to guide for remote consultation](#), 5th August

5) LMC NHS Pension Scheme Update Webinar for Practice Managers *Final Chance to Book*

Date: Wednesday 29th July
Time: 12:30 – 13:30
Charge: £10

Overview: NHS Pensions will be explained in a user-friendly way from the aspects of how they affect your practice.

The session will be hosted by James Gransby and Paul Gordon who will talk through the topical issue of Final Pay Controls and give an overview of the NHS Pension Scheme. This will provide practical guidance on NHS pensions and you will have the opportunity to ask questions during this interactive session.

Objective: You will gain an understanding of NHS Pensions and understand the impact on your own pension and that of your practice.

Agenda NHS Pensions Scheme update:

- 1995/2008/2015 Schemes
- Annual Allowance/Tapered Annual Allowance – the options and implications
- Lifetime Allowance – impact of exceeding, protection available
- 24 Hour Retirement – How, when and why
- When to retire
- Final Pay Controls

[Register here](#)

Please note:

Places are limited. Registering does not guarantee your place.

6) LMC GP Pensions Update Webinar *Final Chance to Book*

Date: Wednesday 29th 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.

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