



## Beds & Herts LMC Ltd Weekly Update for Practices: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### 1) Extension of the flu programme

Practices will have seen the announcements in the press today about the extension of the flu programme to include people over 50. The government has announced this to the public before the details were issued to practices, CCGs or LMCs. We have had the following update from GPC this afternoon.

*The Department of Health and Social Care has [announced their plans for this year's flu programme](#), which has been expanded to include a new cohort of people aged 50 to 64, who will be eligible for free vaccinations. The programme will also include households of those on the shielded patient list and for the school programme to be expanded to the first year of secondary schools.*

*We have been in discussions with NHSE/I about the delivery of the programme, including the operational issues, implications for PPE, vaccine provision and for additional funding to support the programme. A final decision on when it will be possible to deliver the vaccination to 50-64 year olds will be made later in the year and will depend on vaccine availability following the initial focus on those most at risk. We expect further guidance by the CMO to be published next week.*

### 2) Annual pay award for doctors in England

The Government in England has announced that they have agreed with the [DDR's recommendation](#) of a 2.8% pay uplift. This applies to salaried GPs, GP trainers and GP appraisers, with payments to be backdated to April 2020, but does not include junior doctors or GP contractors in England.

The long-term pay deals for both GPs and junior doctors were agreed before anyone could have predicted the serious impact COVID-19 would have on the NHS, nor the financial pressure it would put practices under, and this must be rectified.

This is the second year of our 5-year contract agreement, which not only provides 100% funding for a large workforce expansion to help manage practice workload pressures but also provided for the removal of the significant cost of indemnity last year. For 2020/21, it secures additional funding to cover annual pay increases of 1.8%. This is at a time when RPI is currently at 1.1% and CPI at 0.8%. However, this is far from a normal situation and the government made clear in their announcement that this higher pay award was "in recognition for doctors efforts on the frontline during the battle against COVID-19".

It's unacceptable therefore that the government failed to fund the gap to support GP contractors in funding the increases for staff and salaried GPs. GPC has raised this in an urgent meeting with the Health Minister, Jo Churchill, and made clear that this comes at a time when practices are also feeling the impact of not being reimbursed for additional costs to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. GP practices and their dedicated staff have spent the last few months working incredibly hard in completely overhauling services to guarantee

that patients can continue receiving the care they need from their local surgery safely during the pandemic, and for this not to be recognised by the Government will be felt as a serious blow. The applause of politicians for hardworking doctors now rings hollow. The BMA is therefore pushing for this to be addressed and they will be raising this directly with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

#### Applying the uplift

While GPC continues to put pressure on DHSC and NHSE/I for more funding, practices are encouraged to provide the full 2.8% uplift for all Salaried GPs, although how any pay uplift is provided to Salaried GPs, as with all practice staff, will be determined by the terms of their employment contract.

The GMS contract regulations, and standard PMS agreement (since 2015), state that practices must employ Salaried GPs *on terms no less favourable than the model contract*. Therefore, all GMS practices, and those PMS practices that have agreed to that wording, must employ Salaried GPs on terms no less favourable than the Salaried GP model contract.

The Salaried GP model contract states *'annual increments on [incremental date] each year and in accordance with the Government's decision on the pay of general practitioners following the recommendation of the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body'*. Therefore, if this wording is included in the employment contract, the full 2.8% uplift must be provided. The model contract however may be amended by agreement, so it will depend on the individual agreement between the practice and the Salaried GP. If it includes the clause above, then the 2.8% must be provided. If a different annual increment/calculation is included in the contract, or if the contract is silent on this point, then the practice is still encouraged to pass on the full 2.8%. We must not let this pay award be a source of division between GP contractors and salaried GPs but respect one another as professional colleagues.

GPs and their teams have played a vital and essential role on the pandemic frontline and its therefore disingenuous in the extreme for the government not to provide the necessary funding to recognise this. GPC says it will do all it can to address this unacceptable situation.

### **3) Payments for the Learning Disability Health Checks DES**

Under the arrangements for maintaining practice income during the pandemic, practices were informed that they would receive a payment in August for quarter one for the Learning Disability Health Check DES based on previous year's activity. The Q1 figure is now available on CQRS for submission, and we have been asked by practices what figure should be entered. Our local NHS England finance team has given us the following information:

"Could you tell practices to input the correct info. We will be doing some analysis after we have received the data and review practices who may have been adversely affected by COVID. We will then need to put together a proposal about any further action as there is currently no national guidance on how LD should be managed."

### **4) NHS Confederation report on PCNs**

NHS Confederation has published a report about [Primary Care Networks – one year on](#), to mark the one-year anniversary of PCNs being established across England and assess their progress so far. The report sets out a national picture of variability but does describe how

some networks are now delivering tangible benefits for the health of their populations and offering mutual support to their member practices.

## 5) RCGP FREE Webinars

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

- [Connecting together: The value of relationships & groups for team wellbeing](#), 29<sup>th</sup> July
- [NICEr for women: Managing bleeding problems in primary care](#), 11<sup>th</sup> August
- [COVID-19, the impact on the treatment of addictions. When life gives you lemons!](#), 20<sup>th</sup> August

## 6) Primary Care Direct: Free online webinars: Practice Managers' and PCN Managers' Huddles

Primary Care Direct has everything you need to transform, grow and develop your business for GP Practices, PCNs and Pharmacists the like. Through their hand-selected consortium of primary care specialists, you'll find all the guidance and advice you require, conveniently in one place – <https://primarycaredirect.co.uk/>.

- PCN Managers' Huddle with a focus on ARRS, Wednesday 19 August, 9.00am, [Book Here](#)
- Practice Managers' Huddle with a focus on Covid Comparisons, Wednesday 19 August, 15.30, [Book Here](#)

BHLMC Job Board Advertise your practice vacancies with us on our Job Board on the website [here](#). If you are interested in posting an advert please contact [lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk](mailto:lmadmin@bhlmc.co.uk) for more information.

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